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THE TIMES

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Lloyds to bid £3.7bn for Midland

Banking battle puts thousands of jobs at risk

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

THE future of 20,000 bank workers and the survival of Midland Bank as a high street name are in serious doubt as world banking's biggest takeover battle begins.

Lloyds Bank, which yesterday said it would bid £3.7 billion for Midland provided that it receives fair treatment from the EC and UK regulatory authorities, said that it would scrap the Midland name and reduce the combined number of branches by between 800 and 1,000 over four years. This could mean losing 20,000 jobs.

Leaders of the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union declared "total opposition" to a merger between Midland and Lloyds, which has shed 10,000 jobs over the past three years.

The proposed terms, which



Neil Bennett... 12
Diary... 12
Leading article... 13
Takeover analysis... 17
Market reports... 20
Business letters... 21

were inevitable whatever the outcome, he said. His chief executive, Brian Pimman, predicts that the number of bank and building society branches in Britain will halve to about 10,000 over the next ten years. Lloyds and Midland have just under 3,750 branches between them, before any closures, compared with Barclays' 2,500 and NatWest's 2,800.

William Purves, chairman of HSBC Holdings, the Hong Kong bank parent, indicated that he would not give up his quest for Midland without a fight. He said the Lloyds offer would involve reduced competition.

The Lloyds terms of one Lloyds share and 30p cash for every Midland unit at 457p, compared to the 401p on the table from HSBC, Mr Purves said: "HSBC Holdings has proposed a merger which can be consummated in a relatively short period of time. Lloyds' proposal is better by difficulties and delays. HSBC Holdings' offer gives rise to no issues of competition. Lloyds' proposal does so."

Lloyds believes a merger with Midland would save over £700 million a year within four years but says that there would be a one-off cost of £550 million. Shrewder voices speak of the vulnerability of Lloyds should the Hongkong bid succeed. It would be a definite fourth among the big four. The combined group, of a similar size to Barclays and NatWest, would have a larger network with a better spread of branches and would produce savings to contain prices.

It would also mean a reinforced commitment to the small business sector, where the combined bank would have around 30 per cent market share. "Small business has not been well-served by the system," said Sir Jeremy. However, the prospect of Lloyds taking over Midland was given a cool reception at the Institute of Directors' annual convention.

In Hong Kong, HSBC Holdings' share price soared HK\$2.50 to HK\$45 after brokers heard the news of Lloyds' intentions. Most analysts thought Hongkong bank would be out of the race. The shares fell back to HK\$42.75 after HSBC's announcement that it had not bid for Lloyds' position and was considering its own.

Sir Peter Walters, the chairman of Midland, said: "Lloyds has now brought up the main issue, which we have had in mind for three months. Any merger of the big clearers must go to the MMC." He added: "There is the question whether society is ready for the cutback in services that would be entailed." A monopolies reference would leave Midland in an unwelcome period of limbo.

Sir Jeremy said that his proposed offer would have "substantially greater attractions for customers, staff and shareholders", even though a merger would lead to between 800 and 1,000 branch closures and 20,000 job losses over the next ten years. Job losses in the banking industry

New debate over 11-plus

The debate over the return of the 11-plus will intensify today when the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association considers if the government has a secret agenda for a return to selective education.

This and other letters contribute to the debate on bringing back a form of the 11-plus. Page 13

Messiaen dies

Olivier Messiaen, the avant-garde French composer who based some of his music on bird-song, has died, aged 83, after surgery in a Paris hospital. Page 6

Pollution cost

Britain, America and other industrialised nations are to admit responsibility for the cost of cleaning up the world's pollution. Page 2

Fraud alleged

Millions of stamps for overseas countries were printed in Britain with deliberate errors to increase their value to collectors, a court was told yesterday. The alleged fraud could have earned tens of millions of pounds. Page 3

Kabul return

Sibghatullah Mujajidi, the Mujahidin guerrilla chief, took formal charge of Afghanistan yesterday, after a triumphal entry into Kabul the capital, but the move was clouded by fresh fighting. Page 10

FA acts

Kenny Dalglish, the manager of Blackburn Rovers, and Kevin Keegan, of Newcastle United, have been charged with misconduct by the FA. Page 32

INDEX

Births, marriages, deaths... 14
Crossword... 16
Letters... 13
Obituaries... 15
Sport... 28-32
Weather... 16

LIFE & TIMES

Art... 23
Concise Crossword... 1
Homes... 67
Secretariat... 10
TV & Radio... 12
Women... 5

Employers seeking chief executives, managers and other senior staff are advertising tomorrow in 13 pages of appointments in the Life & Times section.

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Portrait of the artist: Francis Bacon in his South Kensington studio standing against the door on which he would try out colours for his canvases

Smith the big favourite in straight fight with Gould

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith appeared to be poised for a runaway victory in the Labour leadership race last night after it was announced that 162 of the party's MPs had backed him for the election on July 18.

He will be in a straight fight with Bryan Gould, who secured 63 nominations from Labour's 271-strong parliamentary party.

Mr Gould plans to hold big public meetings in every region, giving party members the opportunity to take part in an inquest on the election defeat. Mr Smith's campaign manager, Robin Cook, said last night that his success in winning a clear majority of Labour MPs behind him was a "tremendous tribute to his strength as a performer in

parliament by the colleagues who have seen him in action".

Later this week Mr Smith will launch his campaign in the country with the publication of his manifesto.

Mr Prescott and Mrs Becken said they were delighted with the result. Mr Prescott said: "I now have an opportunity to put the case for a new role for the deputy leader in modernising the party. I am confident the party will respond and I am looking forward to the campaign."

Mrs Becken said: "I am extremely pleased that a majority of my colleagues have decided to nominate me."

The nominations closed amid renewed bitterness last night as Mr Gould launched an attack on the rules of the contest, and the behaviour of some of his rivals. He said that the life of the Labour party had taken on the atmosphere of "low farce".

The two hard-left contenders, Ken Livingstone and Bernie Grant, failed to get sufficient votes to stand for the leadership and deputy leadership contests respectively, and were eliminated. Mr Livingstone achieved just 13 nominations and Mr Grant 15, suggesting that the parliamentary far left is now little more than a rumour.

Earlier Ann Clwyd, Labour's development spokeswoman, had pulled out of the deputy contest after her supporters started peeling away to back either Mr Gould or Mr Prescott, who had been

believed to be struggling to reach the 55 vote threshold.

The clear majority for Mr Smith in the 30 per cent PLP section of the electoral college is likely to be mirrored in the 40 per cent trade union section. The race may be closer in the 30 per cent party members section.

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World of art pays tribute to Bacon

By NICHOLAS WATT

FRANCIS Bacon, hailed as one of Britain's greatest painters, died yesterday morning in a Madrid hospital following a heart attack. His London agent said his body would be flown to Britain for burial.

Bacon, 82, was described yesterday as the greatest British painter since Turner. Born in Dublin in 1909 he started painting in 1929 and was entirely self-taught. He destroyed nearly all his earlier works but by the end of his career his paintings commanded some of the highest prices on the world art market. A triptych recently sold in New York for £3.9 million.

The first test of the value of his works, which are certain to rise following his death, will come at a Christie's sale in London on July 2, when a portrait of one of Bacon's regular models comes up for auction. It has been valued at between £180,000 and £220,000 and Christie's anticipates strong interest.

Bacon, who once turned down a knighthood, usually focused his art on the themes of sex and death. His work could be shocking and some regarded it as obscene.

Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate Gallery, which presented Bacon's retrospective exhibitions of 1962 and 1985, said: "Francis Bacon was not only the greatest British painter of his generation, he was also internationally recognised as one of the outstanding artists of the post-war era. His art stands in the great tradition of Western painting, addressing central themes of human existence in compositions grand in conception, rich in colour and powerful in presence."

From today the gallery is displaying Bacon's *Second Version of Triptych 1944*, painted in 1988, which he gave to the gallery. The original triptych of 1944 will be shown at the same time.

Lord Gowrie, the former arts minister and chairman of Sotheby's, said: "He was the greatest living painter and the greatest British painter since Turner."

The artist Howard Hodgkin said: "He was undoubtedly a hero of English painting. Continued on page 16, col 1

Diary, page 12
Obituary, page 15
Tribute, page 16

TODAY IN THE TIMES

ALONE AT THE FRONT



Women who were sent to the Gulf found it a lonely fight on two fronts
Life & Times
Page 1

SOLITARY FRONTAGE



It is a lonely craft but writers like John Mortimer endure the festival circuit
Life & Times
Page 3

TOGETHER UP FRONT



Without a male in sight, women learn how to pamper themselves
Life & Times
Page 5

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Parents struggle to spread school fee load

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION REPORTER

PUPIL numbers in independent schools fell last year for the first time in nine years, as the recession combined with fee increases well ahead of inflation.

The Independent Schools Information Service's (Istis) annual census showed a decline of 0.2 per cent, from 471,557 pupils in January 1991 to 470,492 a year later. The number of full boarders fell by 4.7 per cent, compared to a 2.8 per cent decline among girls. The number of children receiving help with fees rose by 6.4 per cent.

Fees rose by an average of 12 per cent, slightly less than the previous year. Many parents have sought credit from schools or direct debit arrangements to help spread the load.

Istis launched a loan package yesterday to assist prospective fee-payers. David Woodhead, its national director,

said that the dip in numbers was not as severe as had been expected and the number of day pupils had risen by more than 3,000. Although 73 independent schools had closed since the beginning of last year, 76 had opened.

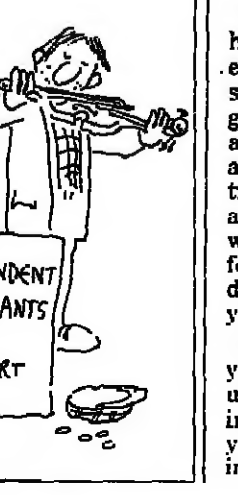
"Independent schools are showing a remarkable resilience in the face of widespread evidence of financial difficulties suffered by parents," he said. "We often claim that education is the last item to be cut when the family budget gets into difficulties. This year's figures demonstrate graphically the truth of that statement."

Further staff redundancies at independent schools cannot be ruled out. The Rev Dominic Milroy, headmaster of Ampleforth College, North Yorkshire, and chairman of the Headmasters' Conference, said that schools would have to take whatever measures were necessary. They could no longer rely on long waiting lists to fill their places, as more

parents postponed their decisions until the last minute.

Private schools are being challenged by City Technology Colleges and the growing grant-maintained sector. "If the intention of the government is to enhance choice and raise standards, and the effect is to subject the independent sector to competition, that is something for which the nation should rejoice," Father Milroy said.

Competition is likely to increase as results of national curriculum tests are published. Elizabeth Digby, president of the Girls' Schools Association and headmistress of St Albans High School for Girls, said that all private schools would eventually take part in the tests. "We don't want to lose the independence that is right for our schools, but we see no reason not to do the tests," she said.



Goodbye to all that, page 12

West accepts blame for polluting the planet

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BRITAIN, America and other industrialised nations are to admit formally their responsibility for causing most of the world's pollution and for bearing the main burden of cleaning it up.

Their pledge will be contained in the declaration of the United Nations Earth Summit, to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June. The declaration, conceived by Maurice Strong, the conference secretary, as an inspirational "Earth Charter" about common stewardship of the planet, has been transformed by the developing countries, known in the UN as the Group of 77, into a highly charged political manifesto.

At their insistence the name Earth Charter has been dropped, and the document is now named simply the Rio Declaration. Much of the G77's agenda is reflected in its declaration in its 27 principles barely touches upon the population question, which is dealt with in three words, "appropriate demographic policies".

Its new focus is determined on people and poverty rather than the Earth itself, vividly reflecting the tension between the rich North and the poor South about who should pay to put the world on economic growth that no longer threatens the global environment with destruction. There are no references to wildlife or rainforests.

The Bush administration had serious reservations about the draft declaration, but that document in itself is unlikely to determine whether President Bush will stay away. Washington has broadly accepted that industrial nations will have to help the developing world clean up, and such aid is no longer the principal bone of contention. Mr Bush's attendance at

Rio depends on whether the summit insists on setting specific goals for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. America, easily the largest producer of carbon dioxide, is alone resisting such targets for fear of damaging its economy. In a presidential election year, Mr Bush will stay away if he feels pressed to make agreements unwelcome to American voters.

Michael Howard, the environment secretary, who arrived in Washington yesterday, is expected to seek room to manoeuvre. The sixth and final round of talks on a convention on climatic change covering greenhouse gases starts in New York this week. To maintain his leverage, Mr Bush is likely to wait until the last moment.

The G77 countries, who will announce their conference position at a meeting in Kuala Lumpur today, have asserted all along that as the North's legacy of pollution and present consumption of natural resources are so much greater than those of the South, the North should pick up the bill.

The industrialised world accepts the first half of the assertion but the declaration for the first time makes their acceptance of responsibility politically explicit, and at the highest level. John Major, President Bush if he attends, and more than a hundred other world leaders will set their names to it.

The document, unanimously agreed by officials and to be formally agreed by heads of government at Rio, makes it clear that although there must be a global partnership to "conserve, protect and restore" the Earth's ecosystem, states have "differentiated responsibilities" in doing so.

It goes on: "The developed countries accept responsibility for their part in the international pursuit of sustainable development in view of the pressures that their societies place on the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command."

Koy Thomson, secretary of the UK committee of the UN Environment Programme and a member of the British delegation, said: "This is the first upfront statement that it's our fault."

"Admitting blame is the prerequisite for starting up a North-South partnership to solve the world's environmental problems."



Priceless losses: the shell of the mansion owned by Anthony Oppenheimer, below, where paintings and furniture were destroyed



Fire wrecks Oppenheimer home

By ALISON ROBERTS

THE £2 million mansion owned by Anthony Oppenheimer, the heir to the Oppenheimer diamond fortune, has been severely damaged by fire.

More than 60 fire fighters battled to control flames which gutted Adbury House, the 18th century home built for Sir Richard Arkwright, the industrial pioneer and

inventor of a spinning machine. Police sifted through the rubble yesterday searching for the cause of the fire.

A spokesman said they had ruled out arson. No one was hurt, but valuable paintings and furniture were destroyed and a pet dog died.

Mr Oppenheimer and his wife, Antoinette, returned to Adbury House, surrounded by 48 acres of land at Burghclere, near Basing-

stoke, Hampshire, on Monday night to find flames coming out of the roof. They looked on as the roof collapsed and their belongings were destroyed.

A fire service spokesman said: "There were ten fire engines at the scene along with an hydraulic platform and oxygen masks for the firemen. It took five and a half hours to bring the flames under control." Mr

Oppenheimer praised the firefighters who pumped water from swimming pools, ponds and streams.

"So many priceless things were lost that we will never replace. I understand that there was a lot of thick choking smoke before the place erupted in flames. But we hope we can save the structure and will not have to rebuild it from scratch," he said.

Council elections

Ashdown woos 'guilt' voters

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

VOTERS will turn to the Liberal Democrats in next month's council elections out of guilt at having supported the Tories in the general election, Paddy Ashdown predicted yesterday.

"I have a vision of the people of Britain going to the polling booths on April 9 with their coat collars turned up, furiously to vote for the Conservatives. I think they will now allow themselves to cast the votes they really wanted to cast then and couldn't for fear of Labour," Mr Ashdown said at the launch of his party's campaign.

The Liberal Democrat leader sought to hide disappointment at his party's general election showing and insisted that it was on a "rising curve" while Labour was on the slide.

Mr Ashdown's bullish outlook was underpinned by par-

ty strategists who predicted about 50 gains in the May 7 poll. The elections cover all the seats in 53 Scottish district councils, a third of the seats in all 36 metropolitan councils and a third of the seats in 110 of the 296 district councils in England.

Andrew Stunell, political secretary of the Association of Liberal Democrat Councilors, said that the party expected to increase its total of councillors to a record of more than 3,800.

He identified Harrogate in North Yorkshire, Colchester, Essex, Tandridge, Surrey, Winchester, Hampshire, and Bath, as towns where the party expected to make headway and possibly take control.

Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat environment spokesman, predicted that a wave of remorse over the re-election of a Tory government would work to his party's advantage. "People may well respond to the general election result and the knowledge that the Tories don't like local government and won't give local government the money it needs by entrusting us with the responsibility of trying to get the best out of a bad lot."

Mr Hughes unveiled his party's local government manifesto, *Action for the Districts*, which promises to "end town hall dictatorships", improve value for money and give a higher priority to protecting the environment.

Objectors would be allowed to speak at council planning meetings and local democracy would be strengthened by ensuring a fair balance of opinion on council commit-

tees and appointments to outside bodies, he said. Layers of secrecy surrounding council business would be peeled back and power would be devolved to new neighbourhood committees of local councillors.

The party's accord was in strong contrast to Labour yesterday when Bryan Gould risked a clash with John Smith, his rival for the Labour leadership, by calling for the abolition of a Treasury rule blocking the release of £6 billion for building new council houses.

Shortly before the election, Labour's shadow Chancellor forced Clive Soley, the party's housing spokesman, to drop a claim that he had won shadow cabinet approval for a change in Treasury accounting procedures, which would exclude the £6 billion from the public sector borrowing requirement.

However, Mr Gould, Labour's environment spokesman, speaking at a Westminster press conference, yesterday backed Mr Soley by saying that it was time to scrap the rule and help the homeless and the construction industry through the phased release of capital receipts from the sale of council houses and land.

"If it is seriously suggested that it is the arcane rule which prevents us from doing what everybody agrees is common sense, we should take this opportunity, given that we are now four or five years away from putting a programme to the British people, of having another look at that arcane rule."

Bitter claims dominate contest

Bryan Gould's camp is making allegations of dirty tricks as the Labour leadership battle intensifies, writes Philip Webster

BITTERNESS and confusion continued to dog the Labour leadership contest yesterday as nominations closed leaving John Smith and Bryan Gould in the leadership fight, and Margaret Beckett, John Prescott and Mr Gould vying for the deputy's job.

Mr Gould, who succeeded in winning sufficient nominations for both posts, referred at a press conference last night to an "atmosphere of low force." His remarks came after another day of allegations of "dirty tricks" being levelled.

Mr Gould's supporters reacted angrily to suggestions, which they alleged had been spread by the Smith camp, that he would only get the 55 votes needed because Mr Smith had released backers to him to ensure that there would be a contest.

"We had the votes we needed irrespective of any support from that camp. They can back us if they like. We cannot stop them, but we had enough in any case," he said. Mr Gould's irritation became apparent last night when he said that he had been confident all along of winning the required number of nominations on his own merits.

"I only regret that my rivals have spent the last week not engaging in the debate we need but proclaiming how much support they think I have or exacerbating the party's difficulties with a rule book that did not allow for

this kind of contest." Mr Gould's anger was clearly directed at both the Smith and Prescott camps, which had questioned his level of support over recent days.

The shadow environment secretary predicted that his support through the Labour movement would increase now that it could move away from the technical ballot rules and get onto the issues of the campaign.

Earlier in the day there was further confusion as Ann Clwyd, Labour's development spokeswoman, pulled out of the contest saying she wanted to give people who had backed her the opportunity to nominate someone else.

She said she had secured 42 pledges of support from MPs, but they had been peeling away since Monday afternoon.

Ms Clwyd's pledges were clearly more likely to go to Mr Prescott or Mr Gould, who were believed to be in need of help, but she complicated matters further by saying that she would now be supporting Mr Beckett.

Throughout yesterday afternoon there was a steady stream of Labour MPs changing their earlier nominations.

Nominations, page 1
Leading article, page 13

Woman killed by Loyalist gunman

A Roman Catholic woman who often helped sick Protestants was shot dead by the Loyalist Ulster Freedom Fighters in west Belfast yesterday.

Philomena Hanna, 26, from the Ballymurphy area of the city, had two daughters, one aged 17 months. She was shot in the head as she worked behind the counter in a pharmacy on the Springfield Road. The gunman who killed her escaped with a accomplice on a motorcycle, police said.

The UFF said that Mrs Hanna was a sister of Richard McAuley, an official in Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA. This was denied by Mr McAuley.

Alastair McDonnell, a GP who knew Mrs Hanna, said: "She was an angel of mercy, very caring, very good. A lot of people would have been too frightened to deliver prescriptions into the Shankill. But she was a decent, open, honest soul who held no corner for any bigotry. She was kind and generous, and suddenly she pays the price."

Teacher jailed for assaults

A religious education teacher who sexually assaulted three schoolgirls in his class has been jailed for two and a half years. Trevor Robinson, 38, of Bearwood, Birmingham, preyed on the adolescent "crush" on him, Judge James Pyle told Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Robinson had sex weekly for nearly two years with a girl aged 14, fondled another during a school trip and indecently assaulted a third girl in his classroom. He was found guilty of six of seven charges of indecent assault, all of which he had denied.

Ban imposed on beekeepers

The movement of bees and hive frames into or out of southern England has been banned in an attempt to slow the spread of a blood-sucking parasite that kills bee colonies if they are not treated.

All beekeepers were urged by the agriculture ministry yesterday to test for *Vairia jacobsoni*. In the past week, the number of apiaries reporting infection had risen from 44 to 65, 40 of them in Devon, 13 in Somerset, for on the Isle of Wight, two in Hampshire and six in Surrey. David Curry, junior agriculture minister, said.

Sunday title

David Sullivan, publisher of the *Sunday Sport* and *Daily Sport* newspapers, announced the launch of a "clean" family *Sunday* newspaper. The *Sunday News* and *Echo* will have no pictures of topless girls or advertisements for 0998 "adult" phone lines. It will be launched in the autumn in the North. Mr Sullivan plans to expand it nationally, aimed at readers between the *Sunday Express* and *The Mail on Sunday*, and the *Sunday Mirror*.

Rear Window

Life and Times today contains a review of a Channel 4 programme, *Rear Window*, which was replaced last night by a tribute to Francis Bacon.



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Cash shortage forces BR to halt new train orders

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

NO TRAINS will be built in Britain for five years because of insufficient funds to expand British Rail's long term investment programme, a senior rail official said yesterday.

The absence of new rolling stock orders during the period will severely affect Britain's rolling stock manufacturers which have given warning that they will go out of business without them. Such a freeze on orders is unprecedented since the nationalisation of the railways in 1948.

Work on two key rolling stock projects, the proposed InterCity 250 trains for the west coast main line between London and Glasgow, and the 1,500 new Networker coaches for Network SouthEast's and Kent Coast Services, have been postponed indefinitely because of a lack of money.

Plans to begin work on the proposed £1 billion development of London's second Channel Tunnel terminal at King's Cross, and the proposed £4.5 billion Channel tunnel high speed rail link between London and Folkestone, have also been deferred until the next five-year period, BR said. Limited improvements will be made on the west coast mainline to track and signalling modifications but there will not be enough money to improve speeds from 125mph to 140mph by relaying track to take out sharp curves.

BR said that it would have needed an extra £7 billion to start work on all four flagship projects. Because of falling income from fares and property sales, and government spending limits, there was little prospect of proceeding with all four schemes.

The projects were the backbone of Future Rail, the planning document released last year by Sir Bob Reid, the BR chairman, setting out the minimum investment needed by the national rail network to provide passengers with an adequate service.

BR is investing more than £1 billion a year in maintaining and upgrading the rail network, the highest level of investments for 30 years. In spite of increased government funds, however, current support is insufficient to compensate for the effects of the recession and to give BR the additional resources needed to improve the railways.

It is understood that during his first meeting yesterday with John MacGregor, the new transport secretary, Sir Bob made clear his determination to press the case for the extra funds needed to implement the four projects before the current five-year planning period expires in 1997.

leaked last year by Sir Bob Reid, the BR chairman, setting out the minimum investment needed by the national rail network to provide passengers with an adequate service.

BR is investing more than £1 billion a year in maintaining and upgrading the rail network, the highest level of investments for 30 years. In spite of increased government funds, however, current support is insufficient to compensate for the effects of the recession and to give BR the additional resources needed to improve the railways.

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Men stam in fr

Wigs to stay on for now

Judges yesterday rejected the view of a group of wigs that they should be worn in court.

Frances Gibb

IT WAS A CLOSE call, but the wigs have won. Judges yesterday rejected the view of a group of wigs that they should be worn in court.

They argued that the wigs were a nuisance and that they should be worn in court. The judges, however, rejected the view.

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Men deny printing stamps with errors in fraud operation

BY GEOFF KING

MILLIONS of stamps were printed with deliberate errors to increase their value to collectors, a court was told yesterday. The fraud could have earned the seven men involved tens of millions of pounds if all the stamps featured in ten sample charges had been sold.

The defendants were accused of using printing and dealing firms which they owned or with which they had connections to distribute the stamps, which were advertised for sale at top prices because of their supposed rarity.

Michael Worsley, for the prosecution, told Southwark Crown Court, south London, that the stamps had mis-

placed watermarks, missing colours and other deliberate mistakes. "What the stamp collecting public thought were rare errors were in fact being printed deliberately by printers in London."

Mr Worsley said that the stamps were Colonial government issues printed at Fort Mat Security Printing of south London, run by Frederick Hughes, Brian Pillinger and Clive Feigenbaum. The printer received the commission through two philatelic agencies, PDC in Hampshire, which was owned by Mr Feigenbaum, and Cafo of Sutton, south London.

Mr Feigenbaum, 51, of Harrow on the Hill, north-west London, denies one charge of fraudulent trading, three of conspiracy to use false instruments and three of conspiracy to defraud. Ronald Grover, 58, of Beaulieu, Hampshire, denies a total of three charges including aiding and abetting fraudulent trading, conspiracy to use false instruments and conspiracy to defraud. Mr Hughes, of Thornton Heath, south London, denies one charge of fraudulent trading, two of using false instruments and two of conspiracy to defraud. Aart Lagerwaard, 45, of Southampton, denies one charge of aiding and abetting fraudulent trading, two charges of conspiracy to use a false instrument and two of conspiracy to defraud. Ronald Wallen, 46, of West End, Southampton, Mr Pillinger, of Almondsbury, Bristol, and John Smith, 39, of New Malden, southwest London, each deny three charges of aiding and abetting fraudulent trading, conspiracy to use a false instrument and conspiracy to defraud.

Mr Worsley said many of the stamps were sent to a dealer in Clifton, Bristol, of which Mr Feigenbaum was a director and Mr Grover a major shareholder. Others went to another Feigenbaum company, London and New York, which had a warehouse in the East End, from which police recovered stamps and instructions to the printers.

Some stamps produced to mark the 40th wedding anniversary of the Queen were printed with an inverted picture while others failed to include perforations. An extra 5,000 sheets of stamps marking the Duke of York's wedding were printed for Belize without perforations. A set marking the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales increased in value from £7.50 to £70 because it was marked as a specimen.

Genuine printing mistakes were supposed to be destroyed, Mr Worsley said. "When occasionally an error does occur in printing and even the checkers miss it, the stamps acquire a rarity value in the hands of collectors."

The trial continues today.



Fond memories: Sue Upton, centre, a former Hill's Angel, and Henry McGee, left, his straight man

Fans bid farewell to Benny Hill with laughter in the rain

BY BILL FROST

TWO ELDERLY women held hands in the rain and threw a small spray of flowers on Benny Hill's coffin yesterday as the comedian was buried next to his parents at Hollybrook cemetery in Southampton.

They had waited patiently through a hailstorm for the comedian's friends and family to pay their last respects. Nora Reynolds, 83, from Andover, Hampshire, wiped the raindrops from her nose and said: "Benny would have loved this. All these people dressed up smart getting a soaking, hair all plastered and chins all dripping."

Henry McGee, the television comedian's long-time suave straight man, agreed: "Absolutely perfect weather. Ben would have enjoyed the deluge hugely. In fact, we

did a sketch in a graveyard for the show not so long ago. We were gravediggers and every time we tried to dig we struck oil and got soaked."

Hundreds of fans gathered at the cemetery hours before the funeral service. Three stout ladies took over a bench next to the Hill family plot where the comedian was to be buried later. "He's picked a nice spot," said one. "Cheese and pickle!" asked her companion, unwrapping a sandwich from grease-proof paper.

Ronald Porter, 63, met Mr Hill 40 years ago when the comedian was a Southampton milkman. "Those days were the inspiration for Ernie, fastest milkman in the west. He delivered to the building site where I worked and all you had to do was look at him and you'd be laughing. The peak on his cap was all twisted around

and he always had a cheeky, mischievous expression on his chubby face like he was laughing at you."

By the time the celebrities arrived the fans had been confined behind crowd control barriers. A policeman said: "They say Michael Jackson, Clint Eastwood and Burt Reynolds are coming. I don't believe it myself, but we can't take any risks."

The bouquets preceded the funeral cortege. There was a huge bunch of flowers from former colleagues at Thames Television, the station which dropped his series for alleged sexism in the late eighties. Another display, sent by a former member of the Hill's Angels troupe of scantily clad dancing girls, said: "Your exit leaves a gap in our lives that no one will ever fill. You will always be in our hearts."

The brief funeral service

in the cemetery chapel was attended by about 200 invited mourners. Mr Hill, an agnostic, had not wanted religious pomp and circumstance. But the congregation sang "The Day Thou Gave Us Lord Is Ended" and "Now Thank We All Our God".

As the service ended and the hail clouds opened, Maud Simpkins, 89, sat on a bench by the grave and cried. "I've been a widow so long. Benny gave me such a laugh when he came on. When you're old and alone that's the greatest gift anyone can give you."

Nicholas Parsons, the television celebrity, said Mr Hill was more than a great comic. "He was a lovely man and a British institution." Some fans in Southampton plan to petition the city council for a permanent memorial.

Nurses say the law must help prostitutes

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

PROSTITUTES need greater legal protection and tolerance if their health is to be protected and the spread of HIV and Aids prevented, nurses said yesterday.

The annual congress of the Royal College of Nursing, meeting in Blackpool, stopped short of calling for brothels to be legalised. Evidence from abroad suggests that such action does not reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases. Denise Barnett, research fellow at the Anglia Polytechnic, Chelmsford, said.

However, the congress heard how aspects of the law on prostitution increase the risks to women and their clients. Women found carrying large numbers of condoms may be charged with prostitution by the police without any evidence that they were loitering. Chuck Dowling, a charge nurse at the sexually transmitted disease clinic at the Royal London Trust Hospital, said: "So women ignore the advice we are giving on avoiding unprotected sex."

Mr Dowling said that prostitutes were at risk of violence and rape. "The health problems they suffer include trauma from violent sex. Rape occurs, but is barely recognised." However, because the law defines a brothel as a place where two or more prostitutes are working, they are discouraged from living together because of their own protection.

Ms Barnett said that a change was needed in the legal definition of a brothel. "It is very difficult for women to protect themselves if they can't work in pairs." She said that prostitutes were often afraid of visiting health clinics because of the stigma they face and the discriminating attitudes of some health workers, including nurses.

Nurses reaffirmed their opposition to the health service reforms. They defeated overwhelmingly a motion urging the council of the royal college to "declare its support for the aims of the NHS reforms" after delegates expressed fears of "commercialisation and competition" in the NHS.

Wigs to stay on for now

Judges yesterday referred the vexed question of legal wigs to a higher court, writes Frances Gibb

JUDGES and barristers who for a minute felt the draughty wind of change blowing under their wigs can relax for the time being. The judges of the commercial court, who had threatened to dispense with the 200-year-old tradition of wearing horsehair head dress, decided yesterday that wigs were too hot an issue too hot.

They unanimously agreed that any decision to dispense with wigs should be made by all 55 Queen's Bench division judges, of which they are a part, and by the senior judges who make up the Judges' Council under the new Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor.

The clerk to Mr Justice Evans, who heads the commercial court judges, said that nine out of ten commercial court judges had attended the meeting, which lasted for 45 minutes. "It was their unanimous view that this should be decided by all the judges. I think they felt it was too big an issue for them to sit in splendid isolation," the clerk said.

A heated debate may ensue. Views are clearly divided. Lord Taylor, who wants to consult the judiciary before any change, has already made clear his view in favour of shedding wigs and robes to "disarm a good deal of public misunderstanding of the legal profession."

"There has been much recent interest in the media over the proposals by the Commercial Bar Association that judges of the commercial court should give up wearing wigs, when sitting in court," Lord Taylor said yesterday.

He said he wished to make it known that any question of discarding wigs was "for the Judges' Council to consider." Should it do so, he added, it would undoubtedly examine the issue in depth and take many soundings before expressing any view.

Yesterday, another of the most senior judges, Lord Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, said he would like to throw the debate wider and find out the views of the public before reaching any decision. He added that he did not see any urgent case for "discarding something which has been out of date for at least a century."

But he said: "It may well be that the occasion will come when solicitors are granted rights of audience and I can see real objections to having two categories of advocates — one with wigs and one without."

Memorial day upsets Cologne

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE mayor of Cologne has written to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother complaining about the date of the unveiling next month of a statue in London of Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris, commander-in-chief of the wartime Bomber Command.

Norbert Burger, the German mayor, protested that it was on this day 50 years ago that Cologne was bombed, killing nearly 500 people and destroying 100,000 homes.

In his letter to the Queen Mother who, as patron of the Bomber Command Association, will unveil the statue on May 31, he said: "You will understand that I find it politically and morally repulsive towards the victims that this of all dates has been chosen." He appealed for her not to attend the unveiling.

A reply from Clarence House said: "I am to assure you that the date for the unveiling of the statue was not selected for any particular reason."

MPs demand national plan to protect coastline

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN needs a national strategy for its coastline, whose protection has been bedevilled by centuries of planning confusion, says an all-party group of MPs.

More than 30 government

departments, quangos and other official bodies share responsibility for the coastal zone with local authorities, according to the House of Commons environment select committee, which in a new

report calls for a co-ordinated coastal zone management scheme, to counter threats to the coast and help solve conflicts between coastal users.

The report, which pointedly contradicts the assertion by government witnesses to the committee that present arrangements are working well, was applauded by environmental pressure groups, in particular the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The Marine Conservation Society said that the report was most significant.

Millions of waterfowl are under threat from increasing damage to the country's estuaries, the RSPB says (Kerry Gill writes).

An investigation of 126 estuaries found that almost half faced permanent damage, mainly from pollution, marina developments, land reclamation and expanding ports. Other threats to many rare bird species included activities ranging from bait digging to cockle fishing. The RSPB report said that 57 estuaries were at risk.

More than two million waterfowl rely on the UK's estuaries for feeding and roosting in winter, the society says. One problem is that some estuaries are covered by several councils making planning almost impossible. The society wants to make it a statutory duty for councils to work together.



Welsh too shy to admit who's who

BY TIM JONES

JONES the spy would be disappointed with the first edition of VTP Wales, the principality's answer to Who's Who, for its author admitted yesterday that many prominent people are not included in the leather-bound publication because he has been unable to trace their addresses.

Chris Davies also admitted that others who should have been immortalised had not bothered to reply to his questionnaires. Anthony Hopkins, the recent Oscar winner, is, of course, excluded, as is Max Boyce, the man who wrote Hymns and Arias, which has become the nation's unofficial national anthem.

The book, described in the press

release as "probably one of the most important books to be published in Wales for many years", contains 1,700 entries and is good on academics and clergymen. It is also, as one would expect, good on Joneses, listing 89 of them, with Davieses and Williamses grasping the silver and bronze medals. One Jones, Terry, of Monty Pythons fame, says in his entry that he is available for odd jobs when not selling ladies' underwear in his spare time.

Launching the book yesterday, David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, noted that fewer than 10 per cent of the entries were women. "I cannot understand why this is so," he said. "Wales is full of talented women and it is important that we give them as much prominence as men."

Mr Hunt said that the Welsh Office would be making a special effort to increase the number of women on public bodies in the principality from the present level of 17 per cent to a target of 30 per cent by 1996.

Mr Davies said that VTP Wales could be picked up and read for five minutes or five hours. He asked Welsh people who might not realise that they were famous to contact him for inclusion in the next edition.

His quest for names could be aided on Friday, which has been named International Jones Day to coincide with the opening at Ebbw Vale of the Garden Festival of Wales. People bearing the illustrious surname will be treated as VIPs. Don't be killed in the crush.

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Travel firms ignore warnings after Sahara bandit raids

By LOUISE HIDALGO

TOUR operators organising overland trips across Africa are concerned that less scrupulous companies may be taking groups of travellers across the Algeria-Mali border in spite of Foreign Office warnings to avoid the area and reports of tourists being ambushed and assaulted.

A group of 86 tourists, among them some British, was reportedly attacked by armed bandits earlier this month in the latest of a series of incidents involving foreign travellers crossing on the Saharan desert road from Algeria into northern Mali.

A group of 20 bandits armed with AK-47 rifles and pistols stopped the seven-vehicle convoy after it passed through the Algerian border town of Bordj Mokhtar into Mali. Passengers were strip-searched, their money was taken, and some of the trucks

including one a group of students was taking to a children's home in Zimbabwe, were stolen. There were reports that some of the women travellers may have been sexually assaulted.

A German couple and their child are believed to have been kidnapped a month ago before being dumped 25 miles from the nearest village. Another group of Germans reported being put through mock executions and a woman tourist having been raped.

The larger tour operators have reacted by transporting travellers by air rather than by land across the desert triangle between southern Algeria, Mali and Niger where the bandits are believed to operate and where until recently Tuareg rebels were fighting for autonomy from the Mali government. Trucks meet

them on the other side to continue the journey overland.

There are fears that some smaller companies may be ignoring Foreign Office advice to travellers to avoid the border region, and are persisting in taking tourists by truck into northern Mali.

"There do seem to be some people selling tours to the public with the intention of driving them through an area of the desert where there is a known problem," Martin Crabb, managing director of Guerba Expeditions, which stopped overland trips across the area at the end of last year, said.

"It is a very expensive business, flying customers and relocating vehicles to pick them up at the other end. For the smaller operator, the choice can be between shutting down the operation or irresponsibly running the gauntlet."

Peter Newman, of Exodus Expeditions, said: "We have heard that some smaller companies may be in Tamanrasset (a town in southern Algeria) waiting to cross the border."

A spokesman for the Association of British Travel Agents yesterday advised people to defer plans to travel to the area and seek advice from the foreign office.

The Mali government agreed a ceasefire with the Tuaregs, a nomadic people, earlier this month after two years of fighting. The Foreign Office travellers' advisory service issued warnings not to travel from Algeria into Mali nor into neighbouring Niger in February.

There have been similar instances of armed bandits attacking tourists. The Foreign Office has warned tourists to avoid the remotest areas of Kenya after bandits shot a guide and robbed 11 Austrians on a coach.

Dealers want new car price enquiry

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of 13,000 motor dealers last night called on Sir Leon Britan, the EC's competition commissioner, to reopen an enquiry into car prices which can be up to 40 per cent higher in Britain than in other European showrooms.

The Retail Motor Industry Federation says that wholesale car prices should be made the same throughout the EC to end anomalies which allow carmakers to charge British buyers more.

A report ordered by Sir Leon and released today says that the huge price differences are incontestable. It finds that in January last year, prices of some cars were up to 40 per cent more expensive in British showrooms than in seven other EC nations. Under existing EC rules, car price differences in Europe should not exceed 12 per cent over long periods or 18 per cent at any time.

However, a report prepared by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission after an 18-month investigation found that there were no indications of "significant differences in general price levels" between countries.

Sir Leon's report will anger manufacturers who believed that they were protected by the British report. They claim that wide regional variations and differences in specifications account for the price differences listed by EC investigators.

However, the federation said yesterday that discounts to big fleet customers were being subsidised by private motorists in Britain paying higher prices and called for Sir Leon to reopen enquiries into car costs. Roger Smith, the federation's president, said in a letter to Sir Leon: "We believe that it is no longer acceptable that buyers in one member state should effectively subsidise prices for buyers elsewhere within the EC."



First day cover: Karen McCarthy and Jay Shree Kawa shelter from the rain as they show off two styles in a new range of clothing for Post Office Counters staff which will replace the traditional navy blue uniform

Dying man 'gaspd names of his killers'

A dying man managed to gasp the names of his killers before collapsing with a bullet in his heart, an Old Bailey jury was told yesterday.

The two men identified by Ahmed Abdullah, 30, are accused of murdering him in a betting shop in south London on March 11 last year. Anthony Brindle, 27, and Patrick Brindle, 30, deny the charge.

Anthony Brindle arrived at the betting shop in Walworth carrying a .22 handgun, the court was told. His brother was encouraging and supporting him. "Once inside the busy betting shop, Anthony Brindle deliberately sought out Mr Abdullah. He tried to escape, but to no avail," Victor Temple, for the prosecution, said.

Anthony Brindle allegedly fired three shots. Two struck Mr Abdullah in the back and one missed. Mr Abdullah fled to the flat near by of some friends. Mr Temple said, He was pale, weak and had difficulty breathing. His friends placed him on the floor. When they asked who had shot him, he replied: "It was the Brindles - Tony and Patrick."

Ram raiders foil police

Thieves rammed their way into Currys electrical store in Marlborough High Street, Wiltshire, yesterday and stole video recorders, mobile telephones and stereo equipment. They had earlier punctured the tyres of 12 vehicles, six of them patrol cars, in the police station compound near by.

The thieves sped off in a stolen Porsche 911 and Ford Sierra Cosworth. Police cars gave chase for 50 miles along the M4 at up to 145 mph but lost the thieves in Bristol. They abandoned the Ford and most of the stolen goods.

Enquiry drains charity coffers

The Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children yesterday said its operating deficit had risen to more than £350,000, partly as a result of the child abuse enquiry held in Orkney.

The judicial enquiry, established after nine island children were seized by social workers last year and later released, has cost the society more than £100,000, mainly in legal fees. The charity's officials gave warning that, because cash reserves had fallen to less than £1 million, some projects would have to be shelved.

Maxwell fined

Kevin Maxwell, son of the publisher Robert Maxwell, was fined £125 by Beaconsfield magistrates, Buckinghamshire, for driving at 106 mph on the M40 in December. Maxwell, 33, escaped a driving ban after the court was told that he had been under "immense pressure" following his father's death seven weeks earlier. Maxwell, who had been driving a Morgan sports car, was ordered to pay £10 costs and his licence was endorsed with three penalty points.

Cathedral road

A decision about building an access road into the Cathedral Close at Salisbury is not expected to be made this year while more talks take place with interested parties. The cathedral's chapter office said yesterday that any planning application had been "put on the back burner".

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Official totals may hide true cost of Trident

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE government may have avoided giving "the real cost" of the Trident submarine programme by excluding some of the development and construction work from the overall estimates, MPs on the House of Commons defence committee said yesterday.

The MPs said costs which could have been attributed to the Trident programme, such as the development of the pressurised water reactor, PWR2, had been left out. Without the "justification" provided by Trident, "a number of projects... would not have been undertaken at all," the MPs said.

"It is our impression that attribution of costs specifically to Trident may have erred on the low side, with the effect, intentional or not, of understating the real costs of the programme," they said. The estimated cost of the Trident programme has fallen to £10.5 billion at 1991-2 prices, representing a reduction in costs.

The committee commented on the "gratifying and unusual spectacle of a major defence procurement programme coming in far below estimate". However, analysis of expenditure on 110 Tri-

dent-related works projects was "complicated by the system of dividing such costs into those directly attributable and those which might have been required in any event".

There was concern, too, over the delays and rising costs of the submarine's tactical weapon system. Estimated costs had increased by 45 per cent, from £613 million in 1981 to £890 million. Design deficiencies in the tactical weapon system meant that HMS Vanguard, the first Trident boat, launched last month, might have to start sea trials in the autumn "without a fully functional command system".

The report said that the cost arising from the continued operation of Polaris, which is to be replaced by Trident in stages, would remain significant.

The MPs said the estimates of the number of jobs created or safeguarded by the Trident programme had been drastically revised. The committee was told in 1980 that, in the peak years, the Trident programme could sustain up to 25,000 direct jobs annually and another 20,000 indirectly. In ten years, those esti-

mates had been nearly halved to 14,500 direct and 12,000 indirect jobs.

The report noted the "disappointing" number of contracts awarded to British firms for the American Trident programme. British companies are allowed to compete in America on the same terms as American firms for sub-contracts for weapon system components.

So far, 70 British companies have won a total of 557 contracts valued at £113 million, from a US programme worth several billion pounds.

In another report on Trident yesterday, the environmental group Greenpeace said that the true cost would be £33 billion. Greenpeace said the government's figure had omitted the cost of running, refitting, decommissioning and disposing of the submarine fleet.

Jonathan Aitken, appointed defence procurement minister this month, dismissed the Greenpeace report as "moonshine".

Progress of the Trident Programme (Defence Committee Fifth Report, Stationery Office, £14.10)

Tourists put fare before leg-room

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S ten million package holidaymakers are unwilling to pay more for extra leg-room and services on their flights to the sun, according to a survey published yesterday.

More than 95 per cent of passengers would not pay more to be upgraded to a club class style cabin, preferring to spend the money on meals and entertainment during the holiday, the survey among Britannia Airways' seven million annual passengers has disclosed. As a result of the replies, Britannia has dropped plans to introduce an upgraded class of service on its flights for passengers who want to avoid other package holidaymakers.

This week, Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic unveiled a new class on its jumbo jets to separate business passengers who pay the full economy fare from tourists with lower priced tickets. Mr Branson hopes that many of the seats in his new mid-class will be filled with travellers prepared to pay extra for more leg-room.

Steve Allen, Britannia's marketing director, said: "It is clear that not only are people unwilling to pay extra for their flights but that those

who would be in the main economy section would feel somehow inferior and resent those in the special cabin."

The airline is, however, improving its service to all passengers with a new "royal service" giving in-flight video entertainment and improved meals to everyone.

"Unlike many passengers on scheduled airlines, our customers are paying for their flight from their own pocket," Mr Allen said. "They are not like businessmen whose flights are being paid by their own company, and although they demand quality and value they do not worry about a few extra inches of leg-room."

Research also disclosed that package holidaymakers were not prepared to wait for more than 15 minutes to check in for their flight and Britannia is now attempting to reduce queuing times at airports to no more than 12 minutes.

Virgin Atlantic, which hopes to attract "downgrading" business passengers as well as "upgrading" holidaymakers to its mid-class service, believe that sufficient numbers will be prepared to switch and pay the extra to make their new service viable.

Family sells camp that led to Butlin's

By CRAIG SETON

THE oldest holiday camp in Britain, which began as a collection of caravans on a Lincolnshire seaford, was sold yesterday for £500,000.

Albert Henshaw opened Trusville Holiday Village at Mablethorpe in 1924. More than a decade later, another budding entrepreneur, who ran a seaside penny arcade, went to visit and decided to do something similar 20 miles south at Skegness. His name was Billy Butlin.

Charles Moses, the auctioneer who offered the camp for sale yesterday, received a first bid of £300,000. Within four minutes, it was knocked down to Peter Stewart, 47, owner of the Happy Days caravan park at Chapel St Leonards, ten miles south of Skegness. Mr Stewart said that he would make a few improvements but would otherwise run the camp much as the Henshaw family had.

The 12-acre camp attracts about 30,000 visitors for its summer season. It has 105 chalets and flats and 85 caravans, plus a heated swimming pool, crazy golf course and a roller skating rink.

It was sold by Leslie Henshaw, 72, who took it over from his father, the founder, 35 years ago. He is retiring through ill health and was unable to attend the auction. "I feel very nostalgic. It has been my life," he said before the sale.

His father travelled the world on business and used the money he made to buy the land. He placed 20 caravans in a circle near the beach and rented them for a few shillings a week. The occupants had to provide their own entertainment and food.

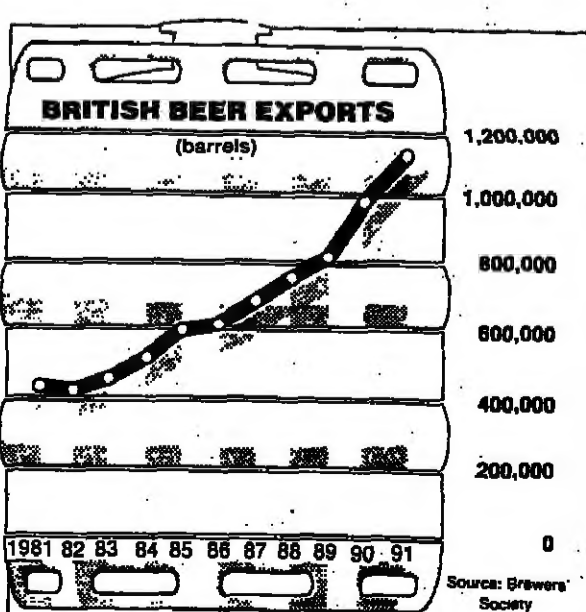
Britain rolls out a million barrels

By DAVID YOUNG

BEER exports broke the million barrels barrier for the first time last year, earning Britain £80 million in foreign exchange, the Brewers' Society says. Overseas sales have doubled in ten years.

Last year, more than 100 countries bought 1.1 million barrels of British beer, with America taking 90 million pints of ales, stouts and lagers. America was still the largest single market but the society, the brewing industry trade association, said that Europe was becoming more aware of British beers and the fastest growing markets were Spain and Holland. Beer was Britain's "forgotten export".

The society said its figures showed that, in the 1991-2 tax year, the government collected £4 billion in taxes from beer sales, two-thirds of the cost of the police force and equal to £16,000 every



minute the pubs were open. The society defended recent rises in beer prices. It said that the number of minutes needed to be worked by the

average earner to buy a pint of beer had fallen from 14 in 1971 to 11 in 1990 despite tax rises.

Richard Martin, chair-

man of the society, said: "For two years now, the brewing industry has endured a period of unprecedented change. As a result of the government interference and the Beer Orders of December 1989, brewers have had to sell or operate at arm's length almost 11,000 public houses."

They had done that on a tight timetable when interest rates were high and domestic beer sales were down, thus discouraging private buyers, and during the worst slump in property values anyone could remember. "It seems inevitable that the end result will be fewer breweries, fewer pubs and less choice for the consumer."

The society said that more than half of British adults, 57.7 per cent, used pubs including 68 per cent of men and 47 per cent of women. More than 29 per cent visited a pub at least once a week.

Sergeant wife adm bigamy

The widow of an army sergeant, who was shot by the Irish National Liberation Army, was given absolute discharge yesterday after admitting bigamy.

Dawn Kent, 29, of Derbyshire, was married to Michael Newman, 34, who was killed in Derby this month. She bigamously married Robert Kent in London, Derbyshire.

Magistrates were told that Adrian Crowther, defence, said that Kent suffered the anguish of Newman's death and told of telling their daughter, Danielle, about it.

Rugby trial

Gary Rees, 31, a former England rugby player, was sent for trial by a magistrates' court, charged with assaulting Stefan, captain of London Irish.

Lady Bottomley, 91, of Kingshill, Buckinghamshire, died in a car crash at Henley. She was the widow of Sir Norman Bottomley, former Air Chief Marshal.

Man crushed

Trevor Black, 49, of Sibbourn, Kent, died after his head was crushed between the hydraulic tailgate and side of a hired lorry.

Warren fined

The boxing promoter F. Warren was fined £750 by Beaconsfield magistrates, Buckinghamshire, for driving at 96 mph on the M2.

Chapel of rest

A Methodist chapel in Trelaw, Mid Glamorgan, has been moved to Japan rebuilt as a golf clubhouse.

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New buyers best placed to trigger homes boom

By Rachel Kelly, Property Correspondent

FIRST-TIME buyers, the motor of the housing market, are in a better position to buy a new home than at any time since 1983, according to the National House Building Council.

Figures released yesterday analyse average first-time buyers' incomes and the cost of deposits and mortgage repayments to calculate a first-time buyer's ability to buy index. The higher the index, the greater the ability to buy.

The index for the first three months of 1992 stands at 103, the highest level since 1983 when it stood at 104 for the first quarter. A high of 107 was recorded in 1978.

"The index shows that the financial ability to buy is there," said Basil Bean, the council's chief executive. "But first-time buyers have not been buying for the last six months because of economic uncertainty, the fear of unemployment and political uncertainty. The coming months will, I hope, encourage first-time buyers to return to the market."

link is consumer confidence that needs a boost.

Confidence is being affected by the continuing house price falls and fears that first-time buyers might be caught in a debt trap, with their mortgage greater than the value of their house. Dr Wriglesworth said. Rising unemployment also dissuades potential buyers. "These factors are putting buyers off subtly. Confidence has got to come back before there is a recovery."

The lack of confidence among first-time buyers is matched by caution among house builders, who traditionally use the first-time buyers' ability to buy index to plan how many new houses to build. "There is a degree of correlation between the index and quarterly housing starts," Mr Bean said. "Now that the index has shot up, we would expect the number of new houses being started to shoot up as well. But it isn't."

There were 36,600 new houses built in the first three months of this year, marginally up on 1991, but considerably less than in the first quarter of 1989 when 47,400 new houses were built.

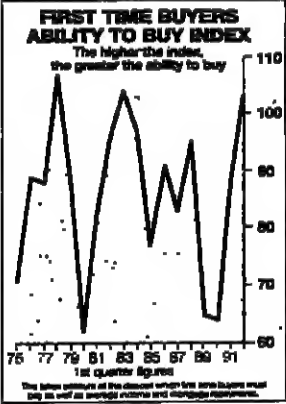
Thousands of homeowners who have been repossessed are damaging their former homes as the dream of homeownership sours, according to estate agents.

Hambro Countrywide, the nationwide agents, estimate that nearly 4,000 homes are gutted by homeowners who have been repossessed. "I would say that about 4 to 5 per cent of the 75,000 homes repossessed last year are abused," said Harry Hill from Hambro Countrywide.

The worst damaged houses were those that were bought by people who never occupied the houses themselves with their families, but let them. The damage extends to prime houses in central London. The agents Allsop and Co are selling a two-bedroom house in Groom Place, Belgravia, which has been completely stripped. The doors have been pulled off their hinges, the kitchen fittings have gone, even the shower tray has been carved out. In the bedrooms, all the doors have been removed from the fitted cupboards.

Ram raiders foil police

Enquiry into charity cutler



Sergeant's wife admits bigamy

The widow of an army recruiting sergeant shot dead by the Irish National Liberation Army was given an absolute discharge yesterday after admitting bigamy.

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Chapel of rest

A Methodist chapel at Treawla, Mid Glamorgan, has been moved to Japan and rebuilt as a golf clubhouse.

Old 'lack choice in care'

By Nicholas Watt

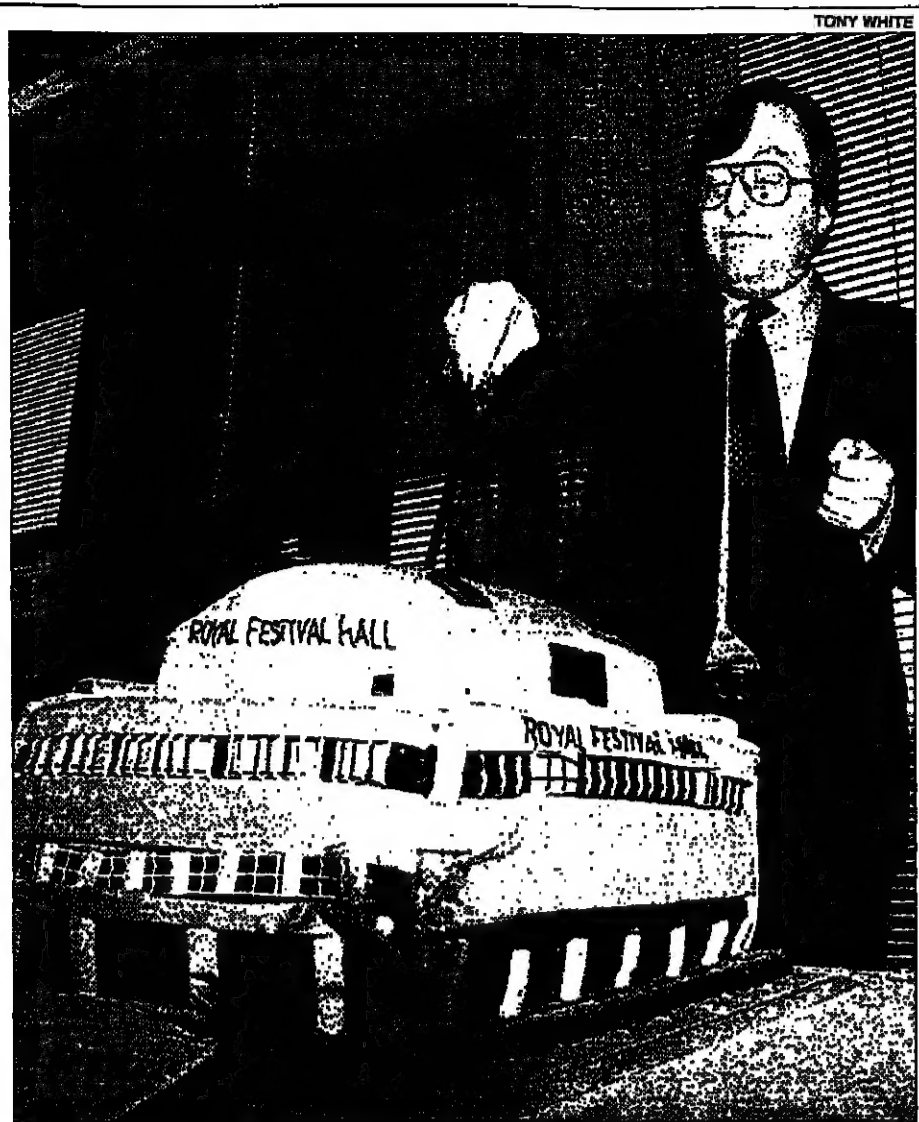
ELDERLY people have little choice in the care they receive and the pendulum may have swung too far in favour of community rather than residential care, a report says today. Services are limited and access to them is usually controlled by "professional gatekeepers", according to the Policy Studies Institute.

Residential care should not be seen as a "last resort", says *Elderly People: Choice, Participation and Satisfaction*. "People were often pleasantly surprised by the relief and security they felt on entering residential care and it should be recognised that care in the community may be inadequate for their needs."

One woman said: "I just felt I didn't want to face another winter on my own in case I was ill. I wouldn't go back for anything."

The package of care received by elderly people in the community was limited, often with one or two services provided once or twice a week. Another woman summed up the feelings of many when she said: "In the morning I needed help. By the time I had got up and dressed and made breakfast and the fire. I was very tired. I could have done with the home help more often, maybe one and a half hours a day."

The report says there is a lamentable lack of data. "Access to information must be seen as a fundamental right of all elderly people and their carers to help them make an informed choice." The institute interviewed 200 over-75s, half in residential care and half in the community. The report was financed by the health department.



Winning recipe: David Mellor, heritage secretary, marks the LPO residency

LPO sees hall as way to the top

By Ray Clancy

THE London Philharmonic Orchestra yesterday announced plans to use its new residency at the Festival Hall to become the best ensemble in the world, rivaling those in Vienna and Berlin.

The orchestra's 1992-3 season, starting in October with a Schubert series, is the brainchild of its Austrian musical director, Franz Welser-Möst, whose world reputation rests on the success of the five-year residency at the South Bank.

Mr Welser-Möst, 31, said yesterday that he wanted to move towards the creation of a permanent body of players exclusive to the LPO. The present situation where orchestras shared musicians did not help the quality of performances.

"The London Philharmonic is comparable with the classic orchestras and our recent foreign tours have proved that. Now the residency gives us the chance to work on that," he said. The opportunity would enable musicians to take more time off and play different pieces, such as chamber music, that would enhance the whole orchestra's abilities.

Nicholas Snowman, general director (arts) at the South Bank, said that the residency was more than an opportunity for the orchestra to rehearse at the same venue as it performed. It was a chance to make the arts centre more alive with the orchestra becoming part of important ventures, including the German Romanticism Festival in 1994 where music, paintings and literature will combine to give audiences wide coverage of the subject under one roof.

He said that the residency arrangement would not harm other London orchestras such as the Philharmonia and the Royal Philharmonia, which do not have a permanent base. There would be fewer performances, but the quality would be higher.

The season will include Mahler and the Third Viennese School festival in April next year. A What's New season in July next year will include contemporary dance, silent films, workshops and electronic compositions.

Mr Welser-Möst said that he was not going to exclude pieces because they were too modern or too old.

Journalists misled by recycling interviews

By Melinda Wittstock, Media Correspondent

JOURNALISTS have been censured by the Press Complaints Commission for misleading readers by presenting quotations from newspaper cuttings as fresh interviews.

The commission had received complaints from people who had been misrepresented in newspaper "interviews" that never took place. Lord McGregor of Durris, the chairman, said yesterday.

TV Quick, the listings magazine, admitted that, after being unable to contact a woman who had been attacked by her husband, it wrote the story on the basis of newspaper reports, and it invented dialogue. "The result was an article which contained serious inaccuracies and was, to a degree, fictitious," the commission ruled.

It said it was also concerned that too many journalists misled readers by pretending to have interviewed a source in person, rather than on the telephone. In one article, a reporter said of the interviewee: "Watching her, sitting up in bed... when the reporter had never visited her house."

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In-fighting begins over Genscher portfolio

By IAN MURRAY IN BONN AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MEMBERS of Helmut Kohl's coalition fought yesterday for the foreign ministry portfolio after Hans-Dietrich Genscher's resignation.

Irmgard Schwaetzer, the construction minister, was nominated on Monday to succeed Herr Genscher, a few hours after he unexpectedly said he would end his 18-year tenure on May 17.

Some of yesterday's newspapers confidently predicted that Frau Schwaetzer would also get Herr Genscher's second title of deputy chancellor. But disagreement emerged among the Free Democrats and the Christian Social Union, the Bavarian sister party of Herr Kohl's Christian Democrats.

After a Free Democrats caucus in Bonn, Klaus Kinkel, the justice minister, emerged as another candidate for the foreign ministry, which the party claims as its long-standing right in the coalition. Wolfgang Ganschow, a Free Democrat member of parliament, said Herr Kinkel would oppose Frau Schwaetzer. Herr Kinkel did not immediately make a public comment.

Earlier, Herr Kohl held meetings in Bonn for two hours with top coalition members to discuss government posts, and sources said afterwards there was strife over who should take the title of deputy chancellor. No decision was announced.

The Christian Social Union is thought to have demanded that finance minister Theo Waigel, the CSU leader, be given the deputy chancellorship, while the Free Democrats wanted Jürgen Möllemann, the economics minister, to get the title.

Herr Kohl has said he intends to form a new cabinet late this year to prepare for 1994 parliamentary elections.

Wolfgang Kubicki, a fellow Free Democrat and member of parliament, said that party leaders had made a mistake in announcing Frau Schwaetzer's nomination so quickly. Another Free Democrat parliamentarian, Jürgen Koppelin, said in a Norddeutsche radio interview the decision had been made by "a small circle" of party leaders who were not empowered to decide on cabinet posts. He called it "extraordinarily bad style" and promised a battle in the faction.

The CSU challenged the Free Democrats' hold on the foreign ministry. Erwin Huber, CSU general secretary, said Frau Schwaetzer's

nomination was "only a suggestion" and urged a general cabinet shuffle.

In the midst of the political confusion, Germans wrestled with the consequences of escalating strike action by public service workers who involved transport and postal services in their dispute yesterday in large areas of the western part of the country.

Employers went on the offensive and in Berlin engineering chiefs held a press conference to warn that they were prepared to lock out workers if they went ahead with plans to stage warning strikes from this morning. The employers' offer of a 3.3 per cent pay increase has been described as provocative by the union, which is asking for more than 9 per cent.

"We have very little room to play with," Hans-Joachim Gottschol, the employers' president, warned. "In contrast to the public sector we have to face international competition. We lost 60,000 jobs in the industry last year because of wage settlements that were too high."

His warning came as Mercedes-Benz confirmed that they will be cutting their 180,000 workforce in Germany by 20,000 over the next two years — the first time the company has ever announced redundancies.

The difficulties caused by the strikes have started a campaign to denationalise many of the services.

Hans Peter Stahl, president of the German Industry and Trade Confederation, called for the post office and railways to be privatised. Dieter Julius Cronenberg, the Free Democrats (FDP) social policy expert urged more privatisation of services such as rubbish collection and parcel delivery and a wholesale reduction in the number of public service officials, including the police, finance and justice departments.

However these threats were ignored by Frau Monika Wulz-Mathies, the public service union leader. Although employers were still not offering more than 4.8 per cent, there was no longer any question of accepting the arbitration panel's suggested 5.4 per cent, she said.

A hint of a weakening on the employers side came from Frau Heide Simonis, of the Social Democrats (SPD), who is in charge of negotiations on behalf of the Länder and said in an interview yesterday that she would no longer exclude an offer in excess of the 4.8 per cent.



Embassy protest: Israelis demonstrating outside the German embassy in Tel Aviv yesterday against the rising popularity of neo-Nazism in Europe

Messiaen, devout innovator of musical style, dies in Paris

By RICHARD MORRISON

OLIVIER Messiaen, the avant-garde French composer who based some of his most celebrated music on bird-song, died yesterday, following an operation in a Paris hospital. He was 83.

The sounds he created during a six-decade career were unmistakable. Mainly epic pieces for organ, piano or big orchestra, they celebrated in music of great rhythmic intricacy and instrumental exorcism his devout Catholic faith. He achieved fame in the 1930s as an organist at the Church of La Trinité in Paris, where he continued to accompany services for nearly 60 years. His immense organ works, celebrating episodes in Christ's life, largely date from that time. Later, for his second wife, the pianist Yvonne Loriod, he wrote equally vast and virtuosic piano pieces, most famously the *Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus*.

As a prisoner of war in 1940 he composed one of his most celebrated works: the *Quartet for the End of Time*. Six years later came the *Turangallita Symphony*, a ten-movement celebration of love, couched in ecstatic musical language.

He became an acknowledged expert in bird-song, travelling throughout the world. This spilled over into his music in such works as the *Catalogue d'Oiseaux* for piano. It was bird-song, and an interest in oriental music, that led him to construct the unique scales that gave his

music its distinctive harmonic and melodic flavour.

As a teacher, at the Paris Conservatoire for four decades, he strongly influenced the leading postwar avant-garde figures, among them Pierre Boulez and Karlheinz Stockhausen. But whereas they moved towards dense mathematical complexity, Messiaen's music was always a highly sensual expression of his faith and feelings.

Messiaen received honours and awards from many countries, including Britain. A festival of his music was mounted in London in December 1988 to mark his 80th birthday, with the composer in attendance.

Obituary, page 15

UN chief ready to intervene in Bosnia

By TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BOUTROS Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, under pressure from France to send peace-keepers to Bosnia-Herzegovina, said yesterday that the UN was willing to play a role in the former Yugoslav republic. But Dr Boutros Ghali said after a meeting with President Mitterrand in Paris that the UN would need to overcome financial and organisational problems first.

"The United Nations is ready to play a role in Bosnia on condition that it has the resources," he said. "The international community must help us find solutions on all fronts, whether Bosnia, Somalia or Cambodia."

France, a permanent member of the security council, has campaigned for the UN to extend its peacekeeping mission in Yugoslavia to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Dr Boutros Ghali had previously rejected sending in UN troops, saying conditions were not right to commit more than the 100 unarmed military observers being deployed this week.

Diplomats at the UN headquarters in New York had thought the most that France could obtain was permission for a military-technical mission to investigate the feasibility of sending peacekeepers. Dr Boutros Ghali said he would discuss this with the security council today.

The UN is already sending about 14,000 blue-helmeted peacekeepers to the Serbian areas of Croatia which have seen fierce fighting in the past few months. That force is due in place in about four weeks.

In Bosnia, a senior Yugoslav army commander demanded the formation of an army from Bosnian Serbs to serve in Bosnia and Serb-controlled areas of neighbouring Croatia. Major General Momcilo Talic made



his call as continued fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina delayed European Community-sponsored talks in Lisbon on the future of the republic for the second day running.

On Monday, the Bosnian peace talks, which represent only Muslims and Croats, demanded a total Yugoslav army withdrawal from Bosnia. But General Talic derided this. "It has nowhere to go — nor will it go anywhere."

Cossiga resigns with customary anger and charm

President Cossiga has left office with one of those bravura performances that have so endeared him to many of Italy's minor parties, reports John Phillips

PRESIDENT Cossiga finally resigned yesterday with characteristic brio that would have seemed ridiculous from any other European head of state.

In Italy, however, such veer has earned the 63-year-old Sardinian maverick undying affection from protest parties as diverse as the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement and the regional League of the North.

In a valedictory "pickaxe blow" against what he has long denounced as the ills of the establishment, Signor Cossiga accused General Antonio Viesi, head of the Carabinieri paramilitary police, and General Goffredo Carino, army chief of staff, of discourteous and disloyal conduct by passing over for promotion Lieutenant-Colonel Stefano Orlandi, his security chief at the Quirinal Palace.

The two men were excluded from seemingly endless ceremonies marking the departure of the president, including the solemn laying of a wreath at the Altar to the Fatherland in the Piazza Venezia. A concert at the Rome Opera in honour of the Carabinieri planned for last night, that would have started Luciano Pavarotti, was postponed abruptly to prevent Signor Cossiga being obliged to meet the officers.

His resignation announced dramatically on television on Saturday leaves Italy in an unprecedented constitutional muddle. The country has only a caretaker government after the resignation on Friday of Giulio Andreotti, the prime minister.

Signor Andreotti's four-party coalition was left without a workable majority after his Christian Democrat party reeled from a huge protest vote in the general election this month. Political analysts believe that repeated "cezzazioni", or outspoken diatribes, made by Signor Cossiga against the mainstream parties over the past two years probably cost the Christian Democrats 5 per cent of the national vote.

Yet when in July 1985 he became the youngest president in the history of the post-war republic Signor Cossiga showed no signs of deviating from what had traditionally been a largely ceremonial role. For five years he was known as an non-existent president, a Roman Catholic bibliophile with an almost monastic lifestyle.

There was speculation that he was badly scarred psychologically by the kidnapping

murder of Aldo Moro, the Christian Democrat statesman, by the Red Brigade group in 1978. Signor Cossiga was interior minister during the kidnapping and he resigned when the body of Signor Moro was found dumped in a car in the Via Caciari in Rome.

In 1990, however, he jettisoned his taciturn style, feuding with the magistrates' ruling body. He also attacked concentration of press ownership in the hands of media magnates such as Carlo de Benedetti and Silvio Berlusconi. "I want to shake some stones out of my shoes," he said.

He also hurled vitriolic insults at his opponents. Achille Occhetto, leader of the former communist Democratic Party of the Left, was, for instance, described as "a zombie with a moustache". Signor Occhetto subsequently led an unsuccessful campaign to have the president



Cossiga: attacked two officers as he resigned impeached for allegedly exceeding his constitutional powers.

During a long visit to France early in 1990 Signor Cossiga was impressed by the power wielded by President Mitterrand; it seemed monarchical by Italian standards. He emulated the French leader's skilful use of the broadcast media, appearing on Italian television for 525 hours alone last year and often speaking on early morning radio chat shows.

He also criticised the Christian Democrat party from which he had risen to the presidency and lashed out at Ciriaco De Mita, the party president, who had organised his election to the Quirinal, for being a "provincial boss".

Signor Cossiga retains supporters in the Christian Democrat party with which he was reconciled just before the general election. But leaders of his former party were divided yesterday over whether he should be allowed to rejoin their ranks.

Yeltsin says fund will not dictate economic policy

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin, speaking only a day after his country received a seal of approval from the International Monetary Fund, served notice yesterday that Russia would not necessarily abide by IMF prescriptions in charting its economic policies. He also pledged that Russia and France would put pressure on America to follow their example and desist from nuclear testing.

Both comments appeared to reflect sensitivity to charges from communist and nationalist hardliners, as well as from some Yeltsin supporters,

that the Russian leadership has been failing to stand up for the country's interests in dealing with the West.

His remarks on atomic testing were made during a visit to the Arctic defence industry town of Severodvinsk, one of scores of Russian communities that have been faced with economic ruin by the government's virtual cessation of arms procurement.

America has declined consistently to match Russia's unilateral pledges to abstain from nuclear tests. Washington argues that testing will be necessary for as long as

nuclear arms are in service. Interfax news agency quoted Mr Yeltsin as saying that "Moscow cannot accept that the United States should have superiority over us in this area, and therefore be able to put pressure on us". He said that during his visit to Washington in June he would press for a total ban on nuclear tests or at least for their restriction to a "minimal quantity".

President Yeltsin spoke about the IMF at Moscow airport, shortly before leaving for a tour of economically hard-pressed northern regions. "We do not intend to abide by the IMF's dictates just like that," he said. "Our opinions do not coincide on all questions, and we shall stand up for our point of view."

He promised to carry out a cabinet reshuffle within the next ten days, he expected that four ministers would be removed and the management of the economy would be streamlined in ways that would make it impossible for the old command economy to be restored.

Mr Yeltsin promised to lighten the tax burden on Russians during the second half of the year, and insisted that his country would be careful in drawing down the \$24 billion (£13.5 billion) credit line that the Group of Seven rich industrial nations have promised in principle to his country.

"We do not want to plunge in... and grab the \$24 billion," he said. "We are acting cautiously and will take strictly defined amounts of dollars for concrete programmes."



Stern words: President Yeltsin speaking in Moscow before leaving for northern regions

Ukraine will use IMF cash for new reforms

FROM REUTERS IN KIEV

PRESIDENT Kravchuk of Ukraine denied yesterday that there was any split between free-marketisers and conservatives in his administration and said Kiev was committed to using International Monetary Fund loans for effective reform.

He said that there was no contradiction between an economic manifesto prepared by Aleksandr Yemelyanov, a conservative adviser, last month and the market reform programme, including

widespread privatisations, submitted to the IMF by Vladimir Lanovoy, the reformist economics minister. "We make no division between Lanovoy and Yemelyanov. This is one and the same process, based on the national, independent economic policy of Ukraine," he told a news conference. "We are doing one and the same thing, and I do not see any big discrepancies... between Yemelyanov's position and Lanovoy's."

Grand duke to have an imperial funeral

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

Russia's ambiguous fascination with its imperial past was underlined with the grand public funeral of Vladimir Kirillovich, the heir to the Romanov throne, in the city founded by his ancestors.

Patriarch Aleksii II will conduct the Orthodox burial service in the austere Cathedral over the remains of the grand duke, who died suddenly, aged 74, on a visit to America last week.

But the honours accorded to the exiled patrician, whose coffin was flown to St Petersburg from Paris last night, will fall slightly short of those due to a full-blown tsar. Under a decree published yesterday by the municipal authorities, he will be interred in the mausoleum established for grand dukes in 1909.

This building, hitherto a museum which will now have to be hastily reconverted to its religious function, stands within the same Peter and Paul fortress that houses the chapel where tsars are buried.

Radio Russia said his widow, Leonida Georgievna, had hoped he could be buried inside the chapel, whose golden spire dominates the city's skyline, in the same vault as the emperors.

The grand duke and duchess paid their first visit to Russia's second city last November, and took part in celebrations to mark its reversion from Leningrad to its historic name of St Petersburg.

They disappointed some staunch monarchists by associating with the republican authorities, and with such Moscow-based clergy as Patriarch Aleksii, who were always regarded by White Russians as stooges of the communist state.

The death of the grand duke, leaving his daughter Maria Romanova as heir, will fuel the debate among Russian monarchists about how to advance their cause. Some believe a new Russian monarch should be elected, following a precedent set 500 years ago. Others criticised the grand duke for having married a noblewoman of Georgian rather than Russian ancestry.

Several people questioned in the centre of St Petersburg yesterday said they did not know the grand duke had died and expressed surprise that he was to be buried in the fortress. "It makes no difference to me where they are going to bury the tsar. The only thing that matters to me is to get through to my next pension payment," a woman standing in a food queue said.

Although he will not join the other emperors, the grand duke's remains will enjoy a dignity denied those of his cousin Tsar Nicholas II, which were furtively hidden after Bolshevik gunmen secretly killed him and his immediate family in 1918 in the Ural city of Yekaterinburg.

Mandela invited to Sweden

Carl Bildt, the Swedish prime minister, has invited Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, to make an official visit to Sweden next month. Mr Mandela will also visit Finland.

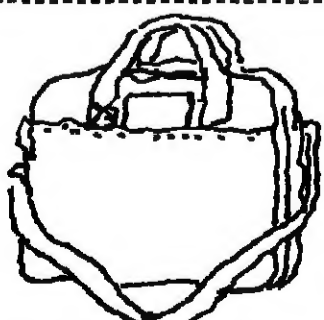
President Havel, on a far East tour, has offered his nation's expertise to South Korean firms venturing into Vietnam. He said Czechoslovakia's contacts there would be useful to South Korean companies which were relative newcomers to Vietnam.

President Ozal of Turkey and Suleyman Demirel, his prime minister, have been honoured at a ceremony marking the 500th anniversary of the mass expulsion of Sephardic Jews from Spain to Turkey.

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, has named Muhammad Sahoun, an Algerian diplomat, to head a new security council peacekeeping and humanitarian aid operation for Somalia.

Prevented by UN sanctions from flying, Abu Zid Douda, the Libyan prime minister, crossed to Malta by a hydrofoil to make an air connection to Europe.

President Vassiliou of Greece has released from prison Nicos Sampson, leader of the 1974 coup that led to the Turkish invasion of northern Cyprus.



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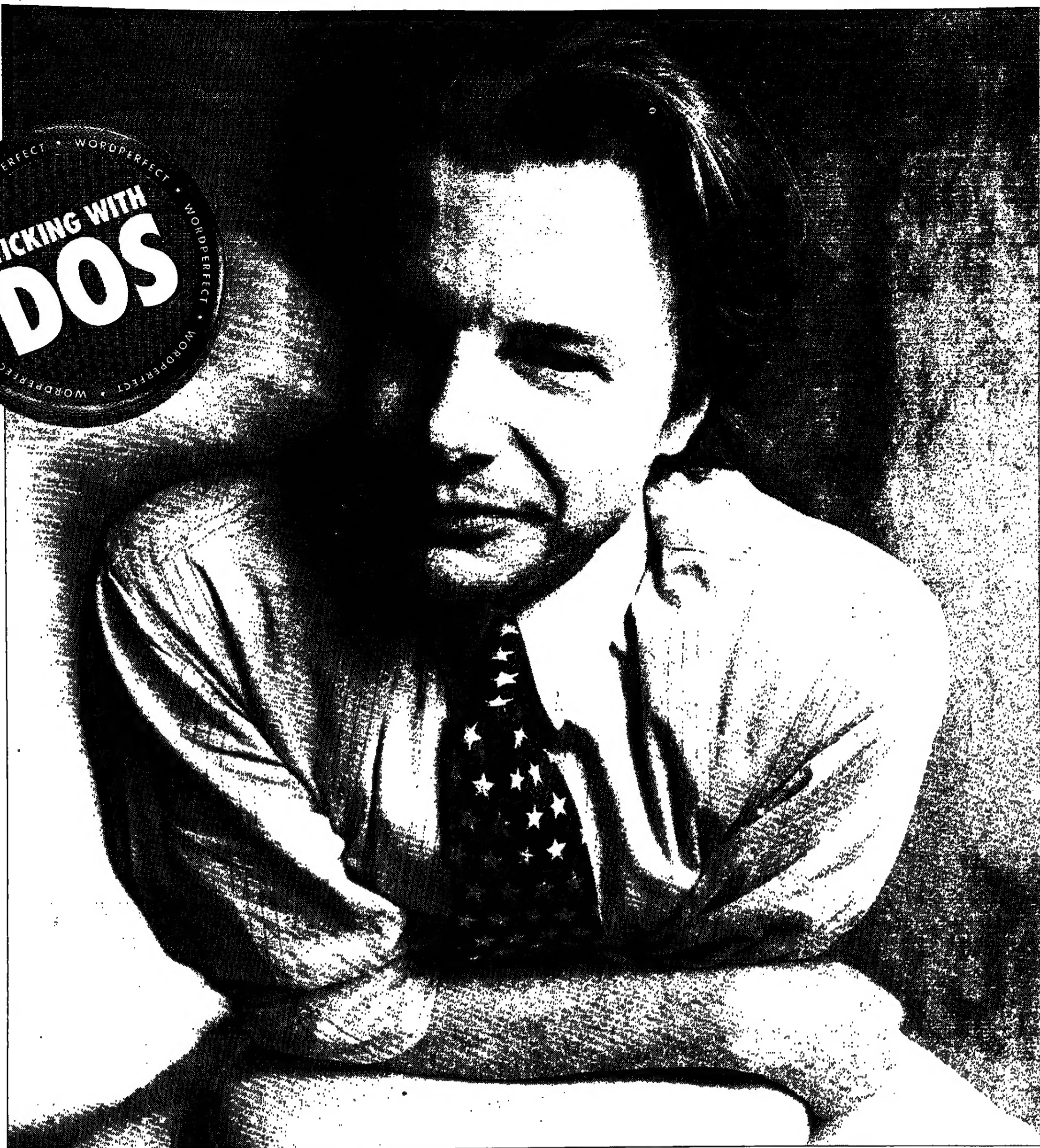
Mande invited Sweder

Charles Mande, president of the Mande Association, and his wife, Mrs. Mande, were the guests of honor at a luncheon given by the Sweder Association at the Hotel Astor, New York City, on Monday, June 10, 1902.

The luncheon was given in honor of the Mande Association, which is a branch of the Swedish American Society. The Mande Association was organized in 1898, and has since that time been working for the betterment of the Swedish American community in New York City.

The luncheon was attended by a large number of guests, including many of the prominent members of the Sweder Association. The Mande Association was represented by Charles Mande, president, and his wife, Mrs. Mande.

The luncheon was a very successful one, and the Mande Association was very pleased to have been the guests of honor. The Sweder Association is very grateful to the Mande Association for their contribution to the luncheon.



WordPerfect

Democrat leaders still ignore Clinton

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN PHILADELPHIA

THE Pennsylvania primary ended yesterday as though it were the Ruritanian primary. Bill Clinton was welcomed at his last campaign rally by moustachioed pipers, their long, grand phrases spoilt only by pauses to find the next page of music. Red banners fought for attention with black homburgs. The young prince of the Democratic party celebrated with a saxophone song played on an instrument borrowed from the band.

As he headed for victory last night, there was much other superficial good humour in Mr Clinton's camp. With seven of the big primary states having voted, and only Ohio, New Jersey and California to come, almost no one thinks a rival can steal the Democratic nomination by normal constitutional means.

Yet the triumphant Arkansas governor, despite his desperate bonhomie, was still a man seeking to attract new friends and repel new rumours about his personal life. The big barons of the Democratic party have still not endorsed him. Here in Pennsyl-

vania his failure to win backing from Robert Casey, the governor, could be explained by differences over abortion policy. But the governors of other states that he has won, Texas, New York and Florida, have also held back, waiting for another "female shoe" to fall or something else to happen.

So have all but one of his fallen primary rivals. Senator Bob Kerrey is writing a book about Vietnam. Paul Tsongas is waiting and watching. Governor Doug Wilder harried Mr Clinton around this month's Virginia caucuses. Only the party loyalist, Tom Harkin, is throwing his weight behind the leader.

Jerry Brown virtually conceded defeat before voting began yesterday, but he vowed to keep up the fight, not so much by attacking Mr Clinton (the Republicans will soon be doing enough of that) but by assaulting the system which produced him.

The beneficiary is Ross Perot, the Texas billionaire and a political outsider with a ready stock of maxims, no record in office and \$3 billion

(\$1.7 billion) in the bank. An opinion poll in the Los Angeles Times put Mr Perot in second place in California yesterday, at 32 per cent, one point behind President Bush and six ahead of Mr Clinton.

The other outsider who dominated the Pennsylvania campaign without taking part was Anita Hill, whose clashes with the senators of the judiciary committee last year is credited with revitalising the politics of feminism. One of those questioners who supported Justice Clarence Thomas against Ms Hill's sexual harassment allegations was Pennsylvania senator Arlen Specter who had a tough battle for the Republican nomination.

There was an even tougher fight on the Democrat side for the chance to try for Senator Specter's seat in November. Lynn Yeakel, whose campaign was inspired by the sight of the all-male judiciary committee, found herself riding a wave of support against Lieutenant-Governor Mark Singel.

Who would be king, page 12



Under suspicion: José Adán Avalos Solorzano, operations chief at the Pemex oil company, in jail in Guadalajara, Mexico, yesterday. He is among officials facing charges after explosions killed some 200 people last week

President finds fund-raising event is embarrassing

A dinner is seen as an example of how money buys access to power, writes Martin Fletcher from Washington

LAST night's annual President's Dinner in Washington was expected to raise nearly \$8 million (£4.5 million) for Republican election efforts this November, making it the largest political fund-raising event ever. But for President Bush, the principal speaker, it turned into a political embarrassment.

At a time when public disgust with Washington has reached record levels, the dinner has come to be seen as a classic example of how big money buys access to power and campaign finance laws are routinely evaded.

The 4,300 Republican guests got more than just pasta salad, beef tenderloin with asparagus and pastries for their \$1,500 minimum contribution. Those who bought a table's worth of tickets received invitations to one of two pre-dinner receptions hosted by Mr Bush and his wife, Barbara or the cabinet, a lunch given by Vice-President Dan Quayle and his wife, and breakfast with the Republican congressional leadership.

Those who bought two tables' worth got either a senator or a "senior administration official" at their table. To be photographed with Mr Bush you had to raise more than \$92,000, and the top ticket sellers were seated at the president's table.

Among those vying for the latter honour was James Elliott, the head of an Illinois marketing company and one of the event's co-chairmen. He is being sued by a former employee for allegedly coercing him and his colleagues into buying tickets, and dismissing him when he refused. Four of his colleagues told *The Washington Post* that Mr Elliott hoped his fund-raising activities would secure a presidential pardon for federal bank fraud convictions which put him in jail in the 1980s and bar him from certain financial activities.

Three groups championing government reform organised a demonstration outside Washington's Convention Centre last night, and it was not only the "auction-

ing" of the White House to which they objected.

The dinner's objective was to raise "soft money" to be spent on state party activities like voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives. These funds are not subject to legal limits on contributions to individual congressional campaigns, and lobbyists for corporate America were queuing up to give money last night. The Republicans and Democrats spent an estimated \$43 million in soft money in 1988 and exploit this loophole blatantly.

To appease intense public anger with Washington, Congress is in the midst of approving campaign finance legislation that should genuinely curb such loopholes, diminish the influence of big money and reduce the enormous financial advantages of incumbency. Mr Bush has pledged to veto the bill.

If the President's Dinner further eroded America's confidence in its political establishment yesterday, so, too, did events at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue where the legislative and executive branches of government appeared to be heading



Bush: diners' money buys access to power

for a constitutional clash over the House bank scandal.

Malcolm Wilkey, the special counsel appointed by the attorney-general to investigate the affair, has subpoenaed the banking record of every congressman, whether or not they were among the 300 or so who wrote an estimated 24,000 bad cheques worth millions of dollars.

Do South Africa's Olympic hopes depend on one race?



Each week *Dispatches* uncovers an important news story, before it hits the headlines.

Tonight we examine the state of South African politics with a behind the scenes look at the selection of the Olympic squad.

South Africa claims to be presenting a fair and multiracial team, but only a handful of the athletes competing in Barcelona will be black.

Dispatches finds out why, and discovers that the effects of apartheid linger on.

DISPATCHES: 9 PM WEDNESDAYS.

KEEP AN EYE ON



Britain is accused on rights

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS Patten must introduce more democracy in the running of Hong Kong during the last five years of British rule, according to a report published yesterday which was critical of the government's attitude towards the colony.

The report by the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists called for the government to allow far more people from Hong Kong to settle in Britain, the creation of a human rights commission in the colony and for more local lawyers to be recruited into the judiciary.

The attitudes of ministers towards the colony when they were negotiating Hong Kong's reversion to China were criticised. The six million people of Hong Kong should have been given the right to approve or reject the 1984 Sino-British declaration in a referendum, the report said.

"The UK is not entitled to hand over the holders of British citizenship in Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China without having allowed them to exercise their right of self-determination," it said, adding that, as a consequence of its action, Britain was obliged to provide rights of abode in Britain or other countries to all three million people who are British dependent territory citizens. Under the British Nationality (Hong Kong) Act, 1990, 50,000 heads of household will be allowed to settle in Britain.

The report said that by 1995 all 60 members of the colony's legislative council should be elected directly. Under present plans, the report said, only 30 members of the council would be directly elected by 2003. The government was accused of limiting democracy for fear of alienating China.

The jurists want the government to ensure that the chief executive is elected directly rather than appointed by China; they also want the chief executive to be accountable to the legislature of the Hong Kong special administrative region.

Burmese halt Karen campaign

FROM REUTERS
IN BANGKOK

BURMA has suspended its campaign against Karen ethnic rebels, according to the official state radio monitored yesterday by the BBC. "The Karen state offensive has been suspended in view of national unity and goodwill," the radio said.

In January the Burmese army launched a big offensive involving more than 10,000 soldiers to capture the Karen main headquarters at Manerplaw on the eastern border with Thailand. The military junta had vowed to crush the 43-year insurgency before the monsoons begin in May.

The suspension of the campaign came after political shifts by the ruling military junta, which is condemned by the international community for its brutal human rights record. The junta has released 27 political detainees in the past few days.

General Than Shwe took over on Thursday as head of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council.

Strike called

Madrid: Spanish trade unions have called a half-day general strike in May and a full-day stoppage in October. They are protesting against the Maastricht accord's effect on work conditions.

Win claimed

Castries, St Lucia: John Compton, the prime minister, claims his ruling United Workers' Party has won an easy victory in the election, and early results tend to support him. (Reuters)

Flag wavers

Canberra: Paul Keating, the Australian prime minister, has announced in parliament that the government will consider a new flag that will not include the Union Jack.

Routes closed

Oslo: Many Norwegian commuters have had to use small craft — including at least one kayak — after a transport strike closed more than 200 car and passenger coastal ferry routes.

APRIL 29 1992
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Example of how
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Washington

of the White House they objected to the chairman's charge that "soft money" is used in one party or the other for the purpose of getting out the vote during election campaigns. "Soft money" is not used by legal means, but is raised by individuals and used for political campaigns and for other purposes, such as for corporate and union drives. The chairman was questioning us together with the other members of the committee that night. The Republican and Democratic leaders estimated \$40 million in "soft money" is used annually in the campaign for the House of Representatives. To appease interest groups, the Washington Congress is the only body in the United States which is allowed to accept contributions from individuals, but only for the purpose of making money and reducing the means financial of the incumbents. Mr. Bland pledged to veto the bill.

For the President, however, the United States Constitution forbids him to participate in any financial interest, and he would avoid even the use of the word of "President" in a place where the President is not resident. Bland is a prominent attorney and a



Bush - 10/10/78
Bush - 10/10/78

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Burmese halt Kare campaign

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Strike called

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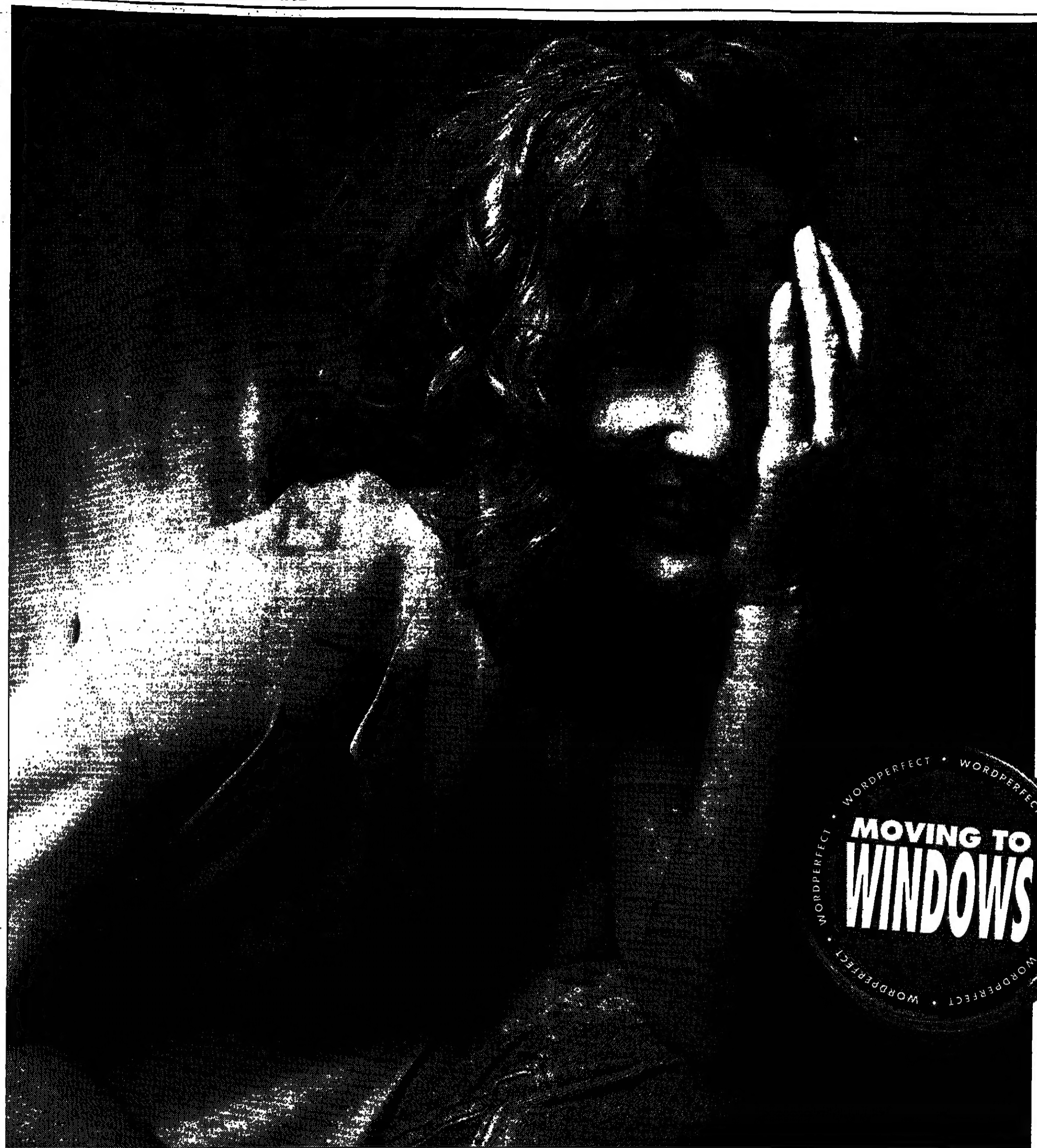
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✎ I was so excited about Windows I couldn't wait to get the last of the DOS programs off my hard disk. Except I kept starting documents in Windows, only to give up and go back to WordPerfect® ✎ Then when WordPerfect released their Windows version, it was like going home for me. ⇄ In theory, one Windows program should feel pretty much like the next one. ✂ In practice, the only one that feels right to me is WordPerfect.

WordPerfect

☎ 0932 850505 ☎

Mujahidin regime takes over power in shattered Kabul

WITH celebratory anti-aircraft shells exploding over Kabul and the streets echoing with welcoming gunfire, Afghanistan's new Mujahidin government arrived triumphantly in the capital yesterday at the head of a convoy of cars, buses and lorries several miles long. Its arrival marked the end of 13 years of war and the start of a new phase of a bitter ethnic power struggle.

Temporary peace welcomed the new government, Christopher Thomas writes from Kabul

only guns being fired as he arrived at the end of a 150-mile journey across rough terrain from the Pakistan border city of Peshawar being those that welcomed him. The hardline Mujahidin, who had been pounding the city with rocket and artillery fire, silenced their weapons. Whether they will observe a ceasefire remains in doubt. There were poor omens when

fierce new street fighting broke out last night. Thousands of Mujahidin rebels allied to Ahmad Shah Massoud, architect of the capture of Kabul, followed Mr Mujahidi's procession from Pakistan in a 29-hour journey. The threat of the faction led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar to stop the convoy did not materialise.

The grey-bearded Mr Mujahidi, wearing a white turban, received power from the outgoing government at a ceremony in the foreign ministry. The acting president, the prime minister, the chairman of the house of representatives, the head of the senate and the chief justice of the supreme court made obeisance to him. They congratulated the rebels on their victory and pledged allegiance to the new Mujahidin Islamic government. Many of the former President Najibullah's old allies were there: it looks therefore as if there will not be a pervasive witchhunt.

Mr Mujahidi expressed his gratitude to Mr Massoud and forces allied to him for "not allowing the hand of the aggressor to become too strong" — a sharp rebuke to Mr Hekmatyar, his nemesis. Expressing his happiness at coming home, he declared: "Imagine what a child, who has been away for many years, feels when it is embraced again by its mother." In the past 14 years, he said, the people of Afghanistan had made more sacrifices than anybody in history. The jihad had crushed the Soviet Union and destroyed communism; the only superpower was Allah. Pashtun, Uzbek, Turkmen and Tajiks



Triumphal convoy: Mujahidin fighters accompany the new ruling council into Kabul at the end of a 29-hour journey from Pakistan

were all equal, like the teeth of a comb. Asked about the future of Dr Najibullah, he said evasively that it was for the people to decide.

Mr Mujahidi's first stop was at a building that used to be called the Office of Solidarity and Peace in communist days. Mujahidin fighters clambered on its walls and roof firing rifles and hugging each other. "Long live Islam," they shouted. "Allah is great."

Mr Hekmatyar fought a hopeless battle against impossible odds, but renewed fighting last night suggested

that he may not yet have given up completely. Every one of the other six Peshawar-based rebel groups turned against him. Mr Mujahidi, who heads the moderate Afghanistan National Liberation Front, will find it hard to negotiate with him. Enmity between them runs deep. They are rumoured to have pulled handguns on each other at a routine meeting in Peshawar some years ago. Mr Mujahidi once said that Mr Hekmatyar's hands were "dirty with the blood of thousands of innocent Afghans".

The new 50-member government is far from a representative body. Shias have no places in it and it is top-heavy with Pashtuns. Iran-based Shia Mujahidin groups have been virtually ignored, bringing echoes of past neglect. They claim to be 25 per cent of the Afghan population: probably they are half that. They are claiming a quarter of the seats on the interim council.

The council is intended to last for two months, after which it is supposed to hand over to a more broad-based

interim government. Attempts will be made to persuade Mr Hekmatyar, who has been offered the post of prime minister, to join in. A general amnesty has been announced, which presumably includes him. But it is not clear if it will include Dr Najibullah.

To keep this house of cards from collapsing will be a tough task, given the Afghan winner-takes-all tradition. Political power has always been defined by firepower, which leaves Mr Hekmatyar as a formidable force with

tremendous capacity for destruction.

● Islamabad: Pakistan has extended full diplomatic recognition to the interim council and has sent medicine and food supplies to Kabul (Zahid Hussein writes).

Mian Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister of Pakistan, visited the Afghan border yesterday and said he would soon go to Kabul. Pakistan's recognition of the council may further isolate Mr Hekmatyar.

Letters, page 13



Homecoming: Sibghatullah Mujahidi, with a military escort, returns to the Afghan capital

South African constitutional talks

Sudden openness confuses press

SOUTH Africa's newspapers, along with most South Africans, were confused yesterday over a report that there may — or may not — have been a significant breakthrough at the constitutional talks deciding the future shape of government.

The Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa), is tackling how the country is to be turned into a multiracial democracy. Before an interim government is set up there needs to be a phase in which the playing field would be levelled before non-racial elections to create a constitution-making body.

There has not been much agreement on how this should happen. This month the working party charged with solving the problem set up a technical committee of experts to draft proposals. The work was completed this week and the draft presented.

The working party provided

Ingenious constitutional proposals released to the media were not quite the breakthrough they seemed, writes Michael Hamlyn from Johannesburg

ed an ingenious solution. An interim joint council was proposed which would be appointed by Codesa. The council would be backed by subcommittees that would supervise defence and law and order, regional and local government, and finance.

The idea is that each of these areas would be impartial when it came to the elections. A lot of questions remained unanswered, however, including the crucial one of what power this joint council would have over the present cabinet and whether it would operate by unanimity or by what is called a sufficient consensus.

The draft discussion paper

was to be argued over at the working party, but the working party, bitten before by partial leaks to the press of discussion documents, decided to distribute the findings to journalists in full. It was this that caused the confusion.

Those late for the news conference missed the explanation of the document's status. Even those who were on time did not fully understand the openness with which they were confronted. Yesterday's newspapers reflected this. *Business Day* made the news its main story. *The Star* in Johannesburg buried it.

In fact it seems to be much less a breakthrough than an interesting suggestion which could lead somewhere once the key questions are answered. More crucially, the whole concept of the preparatory phase of the transition seems to have been overtaken by President de Klerk's surprise proposal last week to set up a rotating presidency to oversee the interim stages of the transition.

● Opposition split: The expulsion of Jacobus "Koois" van der Merwe and Jacobus "Koois" Botha, two right-wing MPs from the Conservative Party, is symptomatic of a profound discontent.

Similarly afflicted is the Democratic Party, the liberals on the other side of the ruling National Party. Both of the smaller parties are adrift in the uncharted seas of the new South Africa. Increasingly the aspirations of the white community, both English and Afrikaans-speaking, are being taken over by the Nationalist machine. The Conservatives are in danger of splintering like extreme parties the world over. The Democrats are being squeezed between the Nationalists and the African National Congress.

The Conservatives' problem is what direction policy should now take. Under the uncertain leadership of Andries Treurnicht, an unreconstructed Verwoerdian, white supremacists harden their stance. Ferdinand Hartzenberg, his deputy, have dominated policy-making. The pragmatists want the party to recognise the inevitability of reform and to take part in Codesa.

At issue is the concept of a white homeland. The hardliners see the whole of South Africa, with the exception of the black homelands and some areas of the Cape and Natal, as the homeland (or *volkstaat*) of the whites.

At a conference last weekend, Mr van der Merwe told Mr Hartzenberg that his policies were an "intellectual embarrassment", precipitating his dismissal.

In the Democratic Party the differences are between the leadership, which feels that there still needs to be a party between the Nationalists and the ANC, and two factions. With a question over whether the party will survive, these factions are divided over whether the interests of the party's constituencies would be best represented by the Nationalists or the ANC.

Cleaner's dreams
L&T section, page 4



Mugabe: confronted by former guerrillas

Mugabe seeks new revolution

Harare: President Mugabe is fired with renewed revolutionary zeal after a weekend brainstorming session with representatives of the 26,000 guerrillas who fought to overthrow white rule in Rhodesia (Michael Hartnack writes).

The *Herald*, which is government-controlled, yesterday predicted a cabinet purge of "opportunists" who allegedly have "marginalised the former freedom fighters" since Mr Mugabe's Zanu (PF) won Zimbabwe's independence elections in 1980.

The president has asked leaders of the former guerrillas, who met in the northern town of Chinhoyi, to prepare a blueprint for new "revolutionary leadership" in the face of the difficulties in the country.

With drought-stricken Zimbabweans queuing for up to six hours for staple foods after a planning bungle, the former guerrillas subjected Mr Mugabe to an unprecedented tirade. One confronted him and gave him a half-hour lecture on how the struggle had been hijacked.

Ghana goes to polls in search of an end to military rule

By DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

GHANAIANS voted in a referendum on a draft constitution to end 11 years of military rule yesterday. The result, almost certainly, will usher in multiparty democracy from next month.

The constitution is being backed by the ruling Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) of Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings and the opposition. Under pressure from the International Monetary Fund and foreign lenders who have given Ghana \$4.2 billion (£2.4 billion) in grants and loans, Mr Rawlings has little choice other than to push through an extensive economic reorganisation.

However, he has taken controversial measures to try to protect himself and his fellow ministers from the consequences of their misrule. Several provisions in the draft constitution protect the government and its servants from prosecution and from attempts to reverse its measures over the past few years.

Section 33 of the draft is explicit: "For the avoidance of doubt, it is declared that no executive, legislative or judicial action taken, or purported to have been taken by the PNDC, in the name of the PNDC, shall be questioned in any proceedings whatsoever and, accordingly, it shall not be lawful for any court to make any order or grant any remedy or relief in respect of any such act."

Approval of the constitution by eight million Ghanaians, which seems a foregone conclusion, will be followed

by the lifting of the ban on political parties on May 18, parliamentary elections in November and presidential elections the next month. Since independence from Britain in 1957, Ghana has had three attempts at civilian rule which have been blighted by allegations of corruption.

Mr Rawlings' regime claims to have been the cleanest in the country's history, but his attempts to protect it might suggest that there are skeletons in the cupboard awaiting discovery.

J.H. Mensah, a former finance minister, believes that the vote on the draft constitution is a "monstrous charade" which the world will not witness because Mr Rawlings has dropped his earlier promise to invite international observers to check that the referendum is democratic. He says that few Ghanaians, most of whom are illiterate, will have had time to absorb the import of a long legal document that has been available for only two weeks.

By decree of the Provisional National Defence Council, he adds, "nobody has been allowed to organise public opinion in support of any alternative view on the constitutional future of the country. Rawlings retains the unchallengeable right to detain any Ghanaian indefinitely without charge or explanation, and is still holding many of his opponents in prison. Upwards of 10,000 armed irregulars plus many more revolutionary cadres are deployed to enforce the PNDC's wishes."

Israeli corruption alleged

From RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

MIRIAM Ben-Porat, the former judge who is Israel's comptroller, has delivered a scathing indictment of government abuse of power.

Her 1,200-page report's toughest criticism is levelled at the housing ministry, under the control of Ariel Sharon, the former defence minister, who has had to defend his aides against allegations that they consistently squandered millions of shekels in taxpayers' money on dubious projects. The worst violations listed were allegedly committed by Uri Shani, the head of Amidar, the immigrant housing corporation, who is accused of running up huge bills with his wife and friends at hotels throughout the country and charging them to the government.

The allegations also detail how hundreds of homes intended for new immigrants were built badly and in the wrong place by contractors who frequently had business or political links to the ministry. The ministry even succeeded in mishandling the purchase of mobile homes, bought as a stopgap while construction was taking place, which finally cost more than conventional two-room flats.

Similar attacks are made against the Ministry of Education, which had failed to teach 60,000 new immigrants Hebrew, and Ehud Olmert, the health minister, who was apparently personally responsible for placing orders for medical equipment with a friend and former Likud minister.

Fawning Iraqis celebrate Saddam's birthday

The festivities surrounding the 55th birthday of the Iraqi president reinforce his personality cult, Christopher Walker writes from Cairo

the man whose grip on power is daily being reimposed more firmly by his revamped secret police.

Tens of thousands of people from Baghdad and other centres swarmed past the reviewing stand at a parade ground in the president's home town of Tikrit shouting: "We all love Saddam." Many young girls came forward to present their short hair as a gift in what has become a postwar symbol of loyalty to the president who led his country into what he called "the mother of all battles".

For security reasons, Saddam was not present at the Tikrit festivities. The official Iraqi news agency said he watched a private display of song and dance in Baghdad, confirming his fear of an assassination attempt in public places.

Recent travellers to Iraq say the cult of personality has returned to the grotesque proportions it had taken on before the war. Baghdad's Saddam art gallery yesterday opened a special exhibition devoted to the president's early days with such items as school

records and secret police files on his underground career before the Baath party seized power in 1968. Among the photographs on display was one of Saddam in prison. Another showed him peering through the bars of a prison van.

In Tikrit, also the home town of most of his senior aides, one group of dancers depicted the women of Saddam's nearby birth village of Auja whooping with joy at the news of his birth — the date having been traced from school records.

Earlier, on Monday at 7pm sharp, an estimated one million Iraqis, mostly young people, gathered in designated squares around the country to recite a new pledge of loyalty to the man they described as "the greatest son of the land of two

rivers". Giving no indication of the hardships being endured as a result of 21 months of United Nations sanctions, the young Iraqis declared: "We swear by your name, Saddam, to follow your footsteps. Whenever you call us, we will be ready at your side... there is no going back. We will do whatever you tell us."

The one area where there were no birthday celebrations was in the Kurdish-held north, where Kurdish children marched through the streets singing the praises of Massoud Barzani, the guerrilla leader. There were no congratulations in the media of the many Arab countries still opposed to Saddam. "This regime is still harbouring evil deep within," the Cairo daily *al-Akbar* said.

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Goodbye to all that

Margot Norman on the end of boarding schools

Independent schools have done extraordinarily well to emerge from this recession with a drop of only 0.2 per cent in pupil numbers, as the latest figures from the Independent Schools Information Service show. What parents seem less sure about, though, is the value of sending their children away to boarding school. Here numbers are down for both boys and girls. The recession cannot be the only explanation, for the decline has, after all, been going on for over a decade. Boarding fees are alarming, but then so are day fees.

Boarding would not have declined during the boom years had it gone on being regarded, as it undoubtedly was until the mid-1970s by the public schools, their imitators and their customers, as a highly valuable if not indispensable social-moral-pedagogical adjunct to the brand of formal education they offer. Leadership training for the Empire had long since become irrelevant, but there was still much talk about character-building even as the schools exerted themselves to resemble hotels more closely than penitentiaries. Much of it was guff.

As a veteran of Cheltenham Ladies' College, I never thought spring mattresses would save girls' boarding schools from eventual eclipse, if not extinction. The day girls always seemed to have the best of it: they got the inspiring teachers, the drama society and the neo-Gothic main building, while we boarders had to put up with inedible food, a matron who pulled hairpins from her greasy bun to lance people's boils, and a long walk to and from the boarding houses, in the course of which flashers, leers and ogles seemed to lurk behind every bush. Thanks to them my overriding memory is of restrictions, restraints, and yet more restrictions.

There was, we all felt, an inevitable whiff of the enclosed religious order about girls' boarding schools. We would not inflict it on our daughters, unless we settled in places so remote that it was the only option. As for the altogether jollier, smaller places that catered more to social than educational aspirations, their days were clearly numbered, like their O-level options and their minute sixth forms.

Since the 18th century, when the fame of certain grammar schools, founded and well-endowed long before by kings and bishops, induced gentlemen to send their sons there as boarders, rather than keeping them at home on the estate with a tutor, school nomenclature in this country has been confusing. These schools became known as "public" schools to distinguish them from local schools, because their pupils came from far and wide.

It is hard to find a public school these days — beyond perhaps Eton and Winchester — which draws pupils from all over the country. Catchment areas have shrunk to an area within an hour's drive. And most of the boys' schools have coped with the decline in popularity of traditional boarding by a variety of wheezes, including the importing of girls, day pupils, weekly boarders and an interesting hybrid, the day pupil for whom it is understood boarding facilities are available from time to time to cover parental absences on business.

If I say that boarding schools are on their way out, I may be proved as wrong as Jonathan Gathorne-Hardy was when he published *The Rise and Fall of the British Nanny* just before that redoubtable lady was reborn. But I shall say so anyway, with the proviso that a handful of grand old institutions will survive. In general, single-sex day schools have been knocking spots off the competition in terms of top A-level results and university places. Fewer than a quarter of independent schoolboys now board, and for girls the proportion is nearer a sixth: there are now empty beds even in schools of the calibre of Ampleforth, and as boarding schools retrench and cut staff, they will be seen as progressively less desirable in academic terms.

If the balance really has swung irrevocably, I wonder how much praise or blame should go to mothers who, remembering their own boarding days, have said "Over my dead body" for both sons and daughters. How much should go to fathers who, unlike their own, have spent enough time with their children from infancy to decide they rather enjoy their company, and would miss them if they went away?



...and moreover ALAN COREN

Forgive me if I seem a little smug this morning. It is one of the penalties, I'm afraid, of being a good Samaritan: no matter how keenly we attempt to hide our light, even the densest bushel continues to glimmer. With that glow of righteousness which, willy-nilly, we paragons exude. If you could see me now, you would cry: there is a man who has been helping somebody as he rolled along! His libbing has not been in vain! For I have recently been a very busy little philanthropist indeed. I have not stopped forking out on society's flotsam — terrorists, fools, thieves, vandals, and all manner of rogues, including a man with an imperceptible bump on his conk which I might have preferred to convert into a perceptible bump, were it not that time of year for me to do good deeds. For it is the moment when all my insurance premiums fall due, and when I am thus required to begin chucking the stuff about like a drunken sailor.

Probably on a drunken sailor, too. You know what it's like in Pompey of a Friday night, you tie on a few, you lurch back to your car, and next thing you know you've sideswiped a dozen innocent parked vehicles. You could be looking at a bill for £10,000 had anyone been looking at you, but you are back in your hammock before the owners have run downstairs to find what the racket was about, so it is left to insurance companies to pick up the tab; but since that is not the way insurance com-

panies stay solvent, it is I who pick up the tab. I did not mean to single out sailors, of course, that was just a cheap link. I could have singled out the 15-year-old who last week asked for 280 similar offences to be taken into consideration, bringing his total damage for the year to £3,000,000; his mother told the court she couldn't do anything with him, he just liked stealing Porsches and ramming them into other Porsches, and I quite understood. Why should she do anything, e.g. bolt him in the cellar and poke bread-and-water through the catflap for the rest of his life, when there are benefactors like me around?

I received my car insurance renewal notice on Saturday. It came with a nice letter explaining that, despite a no-claims bonus unthreatened for 30 years, my premium had gone up 25 per cent due to the increase in crime and vandalism. The nice letter further reminded me not to leave my car unlocked, because those who had were also responsible for my premiums going up. I, who have never had a claim, thus pay the bill not only for teenage villains who cannot lay their hands on £3,000,000; I pay the bill for dingbats who leave their cars open for them.

I do even more for those who put bombs in the back of them. On Monday, I drove off towards nearby Edgware to buy a frog, but an hour later I was still in Cricklewood because of the traffic jam backed up from the Staples Corner flyover demol-

ished by Irish terrorists, and when I spun the radio dial to find a placebo, I found a spokesman for the Association of British Insurers explaining that the £1.8 billions of damage caused by the bomb would be covered by insurance, because it was an act of non-insurable war but of terrorism, and we should therefore expect our house premiums to go up by as much as 15 per cent. This, he further explained, was exactly what the IRA wanted, because it hit every Englishman where it hurt. Had I a carphone, I would have phoned Rikind to tell him to declare war on the IRA and save me a fair few bob, but I do not have one because, yes, you now have to pay an extra premium for insuring them, since they keep getting nicked.

That evening, having finally extricated myself from the jam and returned frogless home, I went out for dinner and found myself sitting next to a 64-year-old, because he was about to retire from a plum job, one of the perks of which was Bupa insurance, and before he left he was going to get his money's worth by having the new beak he had always wanted. Or, rather, my money's worth, since my own Bupa subscription has just shot up as the direct result of a flood of similarly frivolous snippings.

As I say, I would have removed my jacket and given his chinologist something really major to think about, were I not the saintly egg I am. There's a lot of us like that, out here in Samaria.

Retail customers and small businesses will suffer if Lloyds takes over Midland Bank, argues Neil Bennett

High street hold-up

Lloyds Bank did not become Britain's most profitable bank by accident. The entire staff, from chief executive Brian Pitman down, is obsessed with improving profits and return on capital. Consequently, the City regards Mr Pitman with reverence. But Midland's retail customers will notice a sharp change in the style of the bank if the takeover plan manages to clear some formidable regulatory hurdles.

Put bluntly, Lloyds encourages unprofitable customers to move elsewhere. This began in 1989, when Lloyds was the first bank to levy a £12 annual fee on its credit-card holders. More than a quarter cut up their cards in protest, but profits rose because all the debt-laden cardholders had little choice but to stay. Lloyds likes customers with high incomes and large debts, or with large deposits.

These customers become targets for Lloyds Abbey Life, the bank's successful life assurance business. Sales are soaring at Black Horse Financial Services, the subsidiary that specialises in selling to Lloyds' customers, and

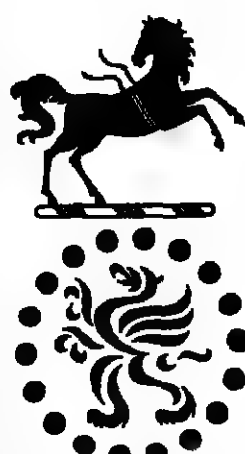
Lloyds hopes that Midland's account holders will prove just as receptive. With the ink barely dry on Lloyds Bank's plan to cannibalise Midland, small businessmen are worried by the prospect of the merger.

Last summer's row between the banks and small businesses over charges and high handed treatment of customers suggested that competition is weak. All too often, bank managers call the shots and family firms are presented with a "take it or leave it" option. The disappearance of one of the few sources of finance to which they can turn will mean that competition is even weaker.

If Lloyds' bid succeeds, it will control 1.1 million small business accounts and have a market share of more than 30 per cent. In the weeks ahead, Sir Jeremy Morse, the chairman of Lloyds, faces an uphill struggle to win over small business

leaders. The omens are not at all good. Last year, Lloyds' code of practice for small businesses was singled out for criticism by the Forum of Private Business, a pressure group promoting the interests of small-scale enterprise.

The rationale of the Lloyds' takeover offer, by contrast, is the cost saving of £700 million a year it can achieve by welding the two businesses together. Despite its past problems, Midland has six million personal customers and 400,000 small business accounts. Mr Pitman believes he can make more money out of them than anyone else.



Lloyds branch closures and redundancy plans

The main casualties will be the 20,000 Midland staff who have no place in Mr Pitman's plans. If the bid succeeds, Midland's customers may find their local bank tellers in the Job Centre. He is also planning a programme of branch closures. The combined bank would have a network of more than 3,700 branches. Lloyds would reduce this to nearer 2,500, although branch rationalisation would probably not begin until the end of next year at the earliest.

Many customers would find their accounts shifted from a local branch to a high street

centre in the nearest large town or city. This will not happen immediately, since Lloyds would first need an act of Parliament to allow it to transfer the accounts of Midland customers without their permission.

The closures would also create millions of square feet of empty retail property space. Bank branches are notoriously difficult to sell or re-let. The traditional Edwardian banking hall does not lend itself easily to alternative uses, and many are listed buildings. Empty branches are already a familiar sight due to recent cutbacks.

Midland's customers must now sit impatiently while the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and institutional fund managers decide their fate. They may of course object to being bought and sold like livestock, and may look for somewhere else to deposit their earnings.

The plans of Midland's alternative suitor, Hongkong Bank, could hardly be more different. Hongkong Bank has few operations in Britain and is keen to establish the largest high street presence it can. It plans so few changes to Midland's branch network that its customers would scarcely notice the difference.

Lloyds' £3.7 billion offer is likely to spark off the most acrimonious struggle the City has seen for many years. It will engulf the government, the Bank of England, banking unions and even the Chinese government, which wants to safeguard Hong Kong's financial future.

This struggle is likely to last up to a year, and Sir Jeremy may not see its conclusion before retiring next spring. Lloyds will need the approval of the Monopolies Commission and of Midland's shareholders before it can declare itself owner of the Midland. If Lloyds does win, the takeover will have a profound impact on the banking industry and banking customers throughout Britain.

Billionaire who would be king

Ross Perot is riding a wave of discontent with the Washington establishment, says Peter Stothard

This year, American voters have become like Polish supermarket shoppers: frustrated, angry and convinced that satisfaction comes only from "new products". Although there was plenty of old product on offer here in yesterday's Pennsylvania primary, voters were talking less about Bill Clinton and George Bush, who continued their grinding courses towards nomination, than about the latest "exciting offer" whose name is not yet on any ballot.

Texasan computer billionaire, Ross Perot, has become talisman of the month. I arrived in Philadelphia three days ago expecting that despite the *New York Times* headline "Just imagine: it's January 1993 and Ross Perot is the President", few people on the street would recognise the name of the earthy efficiency fanatic from Dallas. Yet an informal afternoon poll around the city's central Rittenhouse Square found that six out of ten knew of his bid for the White House, and four out of ten who wished they had the chance to vote for him.

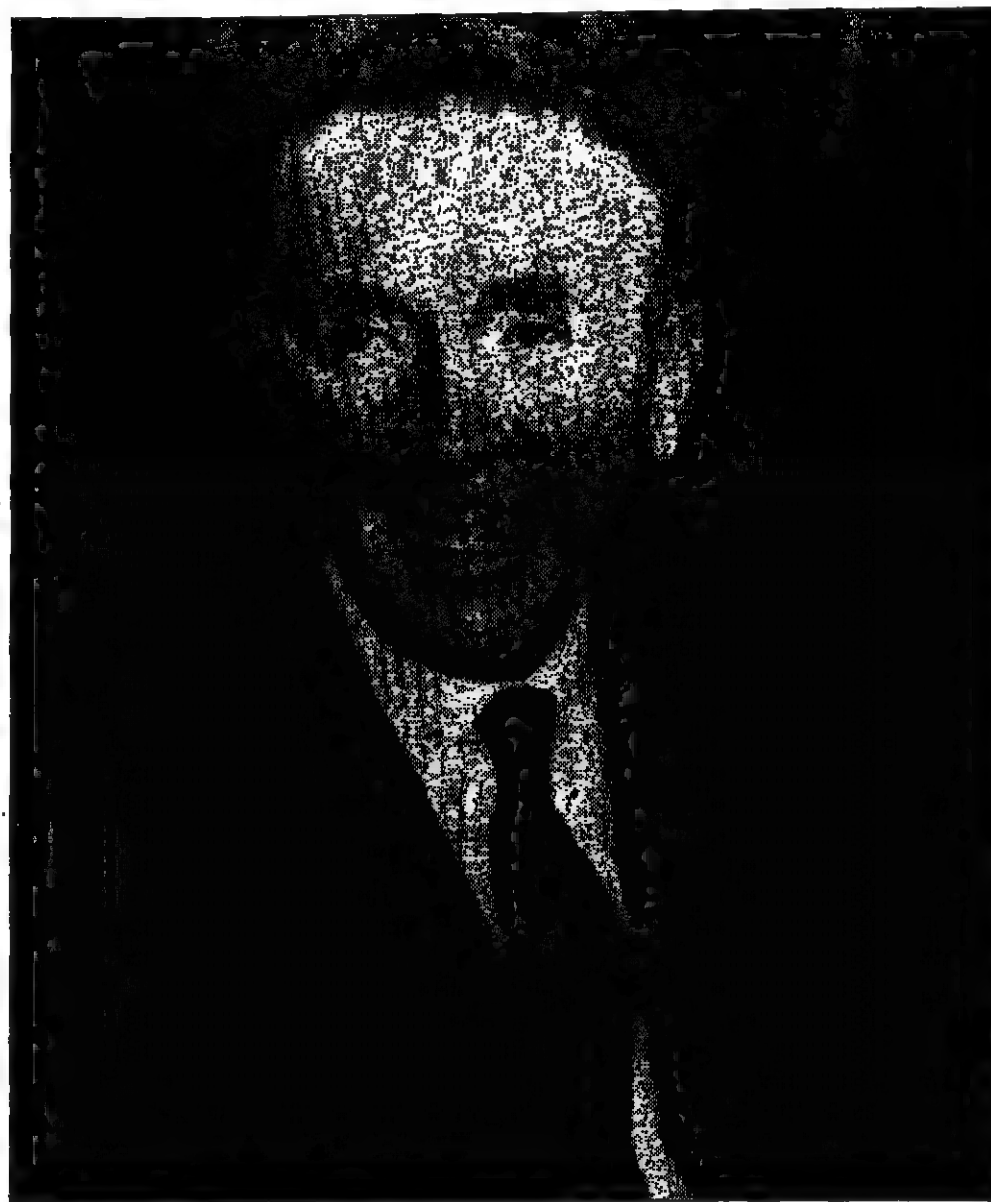
As national polls have suggested, interest in Mr Perot was strongest among older, more educated voters. But he has also hit a deeper nerve. In a typical scene of inner-city life, I watched on Sunday as four white boys decided how to file past the body of Lizzie — short for Lizard, his friends said — a 6ft 3in black male who had stretched himself at length across the sidewalk. During the boys' ballet, I asked the friends of Lizzie who they wanted for president. Two said "Ross Perot" immediately, spitting out that he would "kick the shit out of everything".

These pavement-blockers, according to conventional wisdom, should be outside the political process. Pundit's rule:

people who take their *noms de drug* from reptiles do not vote. Whether they vote in November or not, one thing is certain: somehow they have absorbed the message of a man whose name, until recently, was best known to General Motors shareholders (whose directors he tried to sack) and airport-lounge readers of *On Wings of Eagles*, a fictional account of his 1979 attempt to rescue two imprisoned employees from Iran.

The scoutmaster, a registered Democrat, was even keener on Mr Perot's candidacy. He said that he could not vote for the "adulterer Clinton", nor for George Bush, whom he called "history's most profligate piller-up of debt". Only Ross Perot had the power and integrity to "clear out the political garbage" and "put America back on its feet after the cold war", he said. "Perotism" is the latest of four fierce gales of dissent which have driven across the country this year. Patrick Buchanan, Paul Tsongas and Jerry Brown have each had their moment and grabbed the "angry third" of the 1992 vote. But Mr Perot, whom yesterday's national opinion polls gave 30 per cent support, has two key advantages over his predecessors: first, he is planning a "third party" run outside of the primaries; second, that he has three billion dollars.

For most of the century, and certainly since the dissembling Republican John Anderson was defeated by Ronald Reagan in 1980, third party efforts have been the subject of more wit than worry. There has been no such substantial threat to the system since 1912, when Theodore Roosevelt won 27.5 per cent of the vote with his call for a "new nationalism" to bypass the "hulks" of the old parties. Roosevelt, who had failed to win back the Republican nomination against President Taft, said



Perot for president? Republicans and Democrats should not dismiss him too lightly

that his second "Progressive" presidency would be as "the steward of the public welfare". Although Roosevelt lost his battle, Mr Perot has clearly been reading his history. Asked the other day about the ethics of "buying" the presidency, he said that he was buying it back for the people and that he would

be "the people's servant". Unlike George Wallace's segregationist candidacy in 1968, Mr Perot is not aiming to represent a merely regional or sectional interest. His national appeal is a simple one: that the American political system is failing its constituents, and that a man with a record of deter-

mination and success is needed to put matters right.

To the politicians running the Republican and Democrat campaigns, Mr Perot's ambitions began as just another distraction. The attitude of Governor Clinton is that when Perotism is picked to pieces as his own record has been, people will find

plenty to dislike about the Texan too. The Bush campaign managers agree, pointing out Mr Perot's authoritarian business methods, lack of political experience, opposition to the Gulf war and support of gun-control.

I mentioned to a senior Democrat my encounter with Lizzie and the scoutmaster. "OK, so he gets the boy-scout vote," he replied. "Doesn't he keep Baden-Powell books in his office drawer? The black vote is for Clinton. End of story. This year voters want answers, not high-minded crap from comic-book heroes."

Perhaps, but Perotists aim to bypass cynical officials. They do not need their money-raising skills, and are doubtful if party organisation means much more these days. They use toll-free numbers to assess support, and will use so-called "infomercials", 30-minute slots on cable TV, to push their message. Both of these direct-access techniques have been tested this year to great effect by the anti-business outsider, Jerry Brown. A billionaire might make them work much better — and also back like-minded congressional candidates equally opposed to Washington's ways.

Top Republicans think they can ride the tiger of Perotism and use it to hurt Bill Clinton. A prominent conservative, Wick Allison, wrote in yesterday's *New York Times* that Mr Perot's communication skills and probusiness, anti-establishment attitudes could make him a "Democrat Ronald Reagan". Vice-president Dan Quayle said this week that Mr Perot could be the president's real November opponent.

The Texan offers many familiar ideas — broad rights to abortion, redistribution for drug offenders, more tax for the rich, an end to deficits. Most party apparatchiks are still trying to work out whether Bush or Clinton will be damaged more when this latest focus of fashionable dissent has faded away like his predecessors. From Philadelphia this week it seems the death-watch may be a long one.

Painted into a corner

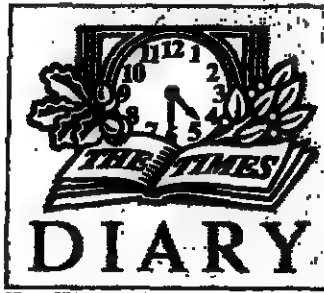
THE DEATH of Francis Bacon was met with surprise in some quarters yesterday. Such was the legendary status of the 82-year-old artist — once described by Mrs Thatcher as "that man who paints those dreadful pictures" — that a few people assumed he had been dead for years. On one occasion Andrew Billen, now deputy editor of *The Observer* Magazine, but then arts correspondent on this paper, was instructed by the news editor to phone Bacon to find out whether or not he was still alive.

"We had received copy from a foreign agency describing Bacon in the past tense," says Billen. "As soon as he answered the phone I felt the story slipping away". Rivaling Mark Twain's *sang froid* about reports of his death, Bacon responded to the enquiry by saying: "I am sorry not to be able to help on this occasion".

Westland revisited

JUST two weeks after becoming industry secretary, Michael Heseltine's worst dreams seem about to come true. The Lloyds Bank bid for the Midland has set him on a potential collision course with Sir Leon Brittan which is bound to revive memories of the Westland saga, which led to the resignation of both men from the cabinet in 1986.

Lloyds says its proposed £3.7 billion hostile takeover bid should be dealt with by the same regulatory authorities as other bids, be it either our own Monopolies and Mergers Commission or the European Commission in Brussels. The rival bid from the Hongkong Shanghai Bank has already been referred to Brussels, whence a verdict is due within a month.



EC bureaucrats believe that Lloyds wants both bids to be handled in London, and expect British ministers to come under heavy pressure to support referral to the Monopolies Commission. If Heseltine, an avowed interventionist, agrees, the stage will be set for confrontation with the EC. The position could hardly be more ironic. The desk that Heseltine now sits behind at the Department of Trade and Industry is the same desk his old adversary vacated when he left the government over the Westland affair.

Don't bank on it

THE Lloyds Bank theatre challenge got off to an inauspicious start yesterday as 40 young theatrical hopefuls cowered in open barges on the west end of London has seen in months on their way to the Royal National Theatre.

Yet nothing could dampen the enthusiasm of the 11 drama groups selected to perform at the Olivier theatre in July. Announcing the winners, Sir Ian McKellen described the chance of performing at the National as akin to young footballers playing at Wembley. "What David Mellor calls fun is life for us," he declared. McKellen will miss the final productions at the National in July, as

he will be performing in Denver. But he hopes that Mellor will turn up to see the 60-strong cast of *Forest School*, Snarebrook, perform *Little Shop of Horrors*. "It's about a man-eating plant. I think the minister for the arts should be there."

Andrew Lloyd Webber yesterday revealed why he looked embarrassed as the £10 million *Canaleto* he recently bought was unveiled at the Tate. "I hadn't seen the picture for three months. When I looked again I pointed out a certain detail to Nicholas Serota, the gallery director, and asked him what it was. He told me I had just paid £10 million for a picture of two people pissing against the wall."

I wouldn't spend a penny there



Hacked to death

AS Eastern Europe buries its Stalinist past, the National Union of Journalists is poised to embrace the remnants of the discredited communist mafia. The union leadership has tabled a motion to its annual conference next week recommending affiliation to the International Organisation of

Journalists. So strong are this body's links with the KGB and Uncle Joe that it has recently been expelled from its Prague headquarters as Czech journalists decided they wanted nothing to do with the outfit.

If the NUJ accepts its leaders' advice and affiliates, British journalists will be able to participate in the IOJ's varied activities on behalf of press freedom. Most recently it held seminars on the subject in Pyongyang, North Korea, and in June NUJ delegates will be invited to pack their bags for a conference on "Human Rights in the 21st century" in that other well known centre of journalistic freedom, Tripoli.

Word imperfect

THE conflict in the Balkans has sent shockwaves through the rarified backrooms of Broadcasting House, where BBC specialists are wrestling with the pronunciation of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Commentators are finding Herzegovina a particularly troublesome word and, while television and domestic radio are offering one version, rhyming with Sheena, their colleagues on the World Service have opted for one more akin to governor. "We have not been using the word for long and opinion remains divided," says a BBC official.

Canvassing among Bosnians in London yesterday proved equally fruitless — they are themselves unsure of the pronunciation in English.

Bill Deedes was delighted to be invited to address a meeting of the London *Diarists* Luncheon Club at the Ritz yesterday. "Since Denis [Thatcher] stopped writing me those letters in Private Eye, I don't get invited anywhere any more."

LLOYDS

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CHAI

The rise and fall of Lymington. The moral is better from the grassroots — from bureaucracy down and civil servants and nannies have their uses but check of them. This adult food created by cows and other farmers and cheese makers who have to be coagulating, compressing, ripening their milk curd depends on their production people want to eat it. Recipe right, they go out Lymeswold, a soft cheese as Camembert launched ten years ago of Dairy Crest, the company of the Milk Marketing £5 million. The cheese of a nationalised industry in a dustier corner Thatcher's economy. The private sector. The cheese's home was Birmingham and by now Bad omens hovered about introduced by the then Mr Peter Walker, who fed sheepdog. The market up with a name to son of upland English past was only an initial let town of Siltion country. It distortion by food snob produced cheese, never pasteurised milk to avg



LLOYDS PLAYS MONOPOLY

Ten years ago the big four high street banks shut their branches halfway through the afternoon, levied charges on all their customers and refused to pay interest on current accounts. When building societies moved into retail banking in the 1980s, the competition led to later closing times and Saturday opening, the abolition of bank charges for accounts in credit, interest on current accounts and the world's most advanced cash dispensing. Competition worked. Lloyds Bank's proposed £3.7 billion bid for Midland threatens that competition. There is no prima facie case for it. Monopolies legislation should be invoked. Lloyds currently has 1,915 United Kingdom branches, and Midland, 1,830. The combined group would overtake Barclays and NatWest, the top two banks. Large corporate clients, who can also borrow from foreign banks and directly from the financial markets, might be relatively unaffected by a merger. Retail customers, as long as they were in credit, might vote with their accounts. Worst hit would be small businesses, lending to whom is perhaps the banks' most important role in making the economy healthy. A Lloyds/Midland conglomerate would control 30 per cent of that market. Small businesses are as captive as bank customers can be. They need to win a bank manager's confidence in order to negotiate loans. Switching banks may be impossible if the business is running an overdraft. The banks have already exploited their power by refusing to cut rates on small business borrowing as fast as on other lending rates. A reduction from four to three big lenders would strengthen their position further. Lloyds argues that "more balanced" competition would benefit the customer. "More balanced" appears to mean Lloyds in first place instead of fourth. The bank claims that the savings that would result from merging branches "would flow through to customers, staff and shareholders of both banks". The best way of cost savings being passed onto customers is through open competition, not

the smooth words of corporate bosses. If 20,000 staff need to lose their jobs, let them go because of market pressure. Ironically Lloyds, the smallest of the big four, has recently proved that biggest is not best. Last year its profits were higher than those of its rivals. Having sensibly held back from the rush for diversification after the City's "big bang" in 1986, Lloyds has shown that specialisation and caution pays. It now wants to swallow a less efficient but bigger rival, largely because that rival is threatening to become bigger still, and jump to biggest bank of all. Such breakneck expansion rarely leads to greater efficiency. It is corporate gigantism at its most manic. Lloyds has demanded that the government give it special dispensation for its bid. It is worried that its bid would be investigated and possibly stopped by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission while the rival bid for Midland, by Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, would be vetted only by the European Commission, a much shorter process. It wants the government to refer Hongkong's bid to the MMC too. The trade secretary, Michael Heseltine, should stop his ears against Lloyds' siren voice. Failure to do so would make a nonsense of the government's competition policy. Banking is the economy's lubricant, affecting almost every adult in Britain. Hongkong's bid would have no direct effect on domestic competition, though it is a proper subject for European regulation. Lloyds' bid clearly would have a direct effect. The market is dominated by four players and, despite the deregulation of the 1980s, could do with even more competition. If Brussels tries to scrutinise the Lloyds bid in addition to the Hongkong one, Mr Heseltine should invoke the clause that allows member states to do the vetting instead. But he should feel no obligation to treat the two bids equally. One reduces competition; the other does not. Mr Heseltine cannot pretend there is no difference.

CHALLENGE FOR LABOUR

The election taking place on July 18 is of no small significance. It could select the next prime minister of Great Britain. It will certainly choose the leader of the official Opposition. It will also revivify a body of 271 Labour MPs whose defeat in the recent general election should not conceal the fact that they have been returned to Westminster in much greater numbers, younger, fitter and presumably hungrier for power next time round. John Smith will almost certainly beat Bryan Gould in this election and Margaret Beckett will almost certainly beat John Prescott to become his deputy. But their victories will be tainted by the manner of their election. Last night the list of competitors for the leadership race was at last determined after qualifying procedures which have confused and infuriated just about everybody. Nomination rules which require that any candidate has the backing of 20 per cent of Labour MPs — 55, at present strength — have been twisted to ensure that there is at least the appearance of a contest. Some supporters of Mr Smith were even encouraged by his camp to nominate Mr Gould, to make sure he reached the 55. This squabbling has at least ensured Labour has a choice and a chance to debate its policies. So far Mr Smith has merely dropped hints of possible and imprecise changes in organisation and policy. The virtue of Mr Gould's candidacy is that he has challenged some of the central pillars of Labour's pre-election policies: its naive Euro-enthusiasm; its opposition to devaluation within the exchange rate mechanism; its tax and spending policies; the concerns of voters in the south of England as opposed to those in the north, Scotland and Wales. The difficulty for Mr Gould is that the more he emphasises these doubts, the more he risks alienating fellow Labour MPs who

fought the election on that programme. All but four of the pre-election shadow cabinet are publicly backing Mr Smith, and his manifesto remains more or less that on which Mr Kinnock went to the nation on April 9. After the 1987 defeat, Labour initiated a policy review of far-reaching consequences. The danger now is that Labour will flinch from an equally drastic examination and Mr Gould at least offers it that opportunity. The great flaw in this procedure is the electoral college on which the election is based, giving the trade unions 40 per cent of the vote, against 30 per cent each for Labour MPs and constituency parties. Nobody now admits to liking this. The leading candidates agree that this system should be replaced by a mix of voting by MPs and party members, excluding the union element. But the new leader and deputy leader will be elected under the existing system. Even though the candidates have urged that the unions should conduct full ballots of members rather than just consultations in branches, several big unions have refused to hold full ballots. Yesterday the National Union of Public Employees became the first to say it would hold such a ballot. Mr Smith and Miss Beckett have so far been reluctant to say they will submit themselves for re-election under new rules they say they eventually want to see, with the union vote eliminated from the procedure. That is the minimum they must promise if each victory is not to look like a rigged exercise controlled by trade union general secretaries. Both the frontrunners now need to say how they would change Labour rather than play for safety. Their victories may seem beyond doubt, but the way they win could yet damage the authority of their future leadership.

HARD CHEESE

The rise and fall of Lymeswold is a fable for our time. The moral is that cheese grows better from the grass-roots upwards than from bureaucracy downwards. Politicians and civil servants and nationalised industries have their uses but cheese-making is not one of them. This adult form of milk is better created by cows and other herbivores, and by the farmers and cheese-makers and industrialists who have to make a living from coagulating, compressing, and usually ripening their milk curds. Their livelihood depends on their producing something that people want to eat. If they do not get the recipe right, they go out of business. Lymeswold, a soft cheese introduced as Britain's blue answer to such famous French cheeses as Camembert and Brie, was launched ten years ago. It was the invention of Dairy Crest, the commercial subsidiary of the Milk Marketing Board, at a cost of £5 million. The cheese was thus the product of a nationalised industry, curiously surviving in a dustier corner of Margaret Thatcher's economy. Mrs Thatcher never trusted the private sector with milk. The cheese's home was Aston, a suburb of Birmingham and by no means cow country. Bad omens hovered about its birth. It was introduced by the then Minister of Agriculture, Peter Walker, who fed it to his Old English sheepdog. The marketing department came up with a name to convey the enchantment of upland English pastures. Unfortunately it was only an initial letter different from the town of Wymeswold in Leicestershire, which is Stilton country. It also lent itself to distortion by food snobs as Slimeswold. Lymeswold proved an archetypal mass-produced cheese, necessarily made from pasteurised milk to avoid the terror of listeria.

In spite of its bucolic PR image, it was the cheesy equivalent of keg beer to real ale, masquerading as lush and local when it was industrial. The new cheese, at least when ripe, was not completely bad, but like most products of a government cartel, it was expensive. Dairy Crest released stocks before they were properly matured and instead of being soft and pungent, many early batches were sold when hard and chalky in the middle. Demand for Lymeswold fell and kept on falling. British cheese has long been cursed by over-regulation of the dairy industry. Neither Mrs Thatcher nor John Major has pressed as hard as they should have for reform. Cheese is milk's leap forward into immortality. Famous British cheeses such as Cheddar, Stilton, Wensleydale and Dorset Blue Vinny are the best of their types in the world. But they grew naturally on farms, like the great cheeses of France. The Milk Marketing Board is the Whitehall-sponsored enemy of such manufacture. The board starves British mature cheddar producers of milk to protect its favoured companies, while other British dairy farmers pour their surplus down the drain. Britain now imports five times as much "cheddar" from its EC partners as it exports. Over this lunacy presides the former chairman of Mrs Thatcher's Conservative party, John Gummer. Let a thousand moulds bloom. Cheese is one of the oldest and best foods in the world, and there is no reason why Britain cannot curdle a soft blue cheese as well as the splendid hard cheeses that it has been making for many centuries. But it will come from cows and cheese-makers, not from those whose natural products are directives and hot air.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Back to 11-plus: sense and selectivity at secondary level

From the General Secretary of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association

Sir, Your leading article, "Back to the 11-plus", April 27, is not only timely, but of crucial importance to the government and all concerned with education.

My association would agree with its conclusion that the first public statement by the new education secretary must be to clarify government policy towards comprehensive education, selection, and the 11-plus.

Without such a clear statement now, there is serious threat to the whole stability of the school system, as schools and local authorities scramble to adopt individual policies for defensive or other reasons.

To allow a return to selection by stealth would be an abdication of responsibility by Mr Patten for the millions of children and people who work in our schools.

It would result in chaos throughout the school system, with neither parents nor teachers knowing which way to turn. It would also result in destabilising the present structure, bringing with it loss of confidence and, in many cases, jobs.

If the government has a secret agenda for scrapping comprehensive education and a return to selection it must end the secrecy, and have the courage to say so publicly. Parents, teachers, governors, and not least, the local authorities, would know exactly where they stood.

My association remains opposed to a return to selection for exactly the same reason it has always opposed the 11-plus. It is an unfair, and provenly unfair, system, especially for the so-called "failures".

The government and the prime minister must also address the question of how their belief in parental choice fits in with opt-out schools, and schools and governors that favour selection. A statement from Mr Patten is urgently called for.

Yours faithfully,
PETER SMITH,
General Secretary,
Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association,
7 Northumberland Street, WC2,
April 27.

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers

Sir, Your editorial rightly identifies the key issues facing secondary education: the growth of "opted out" schools, the covert reintroduction of selection, and the need for an open, national debate about the nature of secondary education for the 1990s and beyond.

The National Union of Teachers has never disguised its view that the growth of the grant-maintained sector would inexorably lead to selection of pupils. Indeed, there is already considerable evidence from many areas that this is occurring. Previous education secretaries have always claimed this would increase "parental choice". What is actually increased is the school choice, the ability of schools to select those pupils whom they want and to exclude those whom they do not.

Many of today's parents themselves experienced the pain of selection when they were pupils. They know that the process was a cause of considerable stress for the four out of five youngsters who attended the secondary modern school and of pleasure only to the one who gained a place at the grammar school. That is why parents have stated their support for the continuance of comprehensive education in their localities when threatened with the prospect of the reintroduction of selection.

What is really needed is a national debate about what makes an effective

school. That debate should include the curriculum, the professional development of teachers, the aspirations of parents, the requirements of the economy, the state of school buildings, and the need to improve resources. Until that takes place, one fears that the prime minister's desire for a "classless society" is just another empty promise.

Yours sincerely,
DOUG McAVOY,
General Secretary,
National Union of Teachers,
Hamilton House,
Mabledon Place, WC1,
April 27.

From the General Secretary of the Society of Education Officers

Sir, Your leading article's arguments against the return to a selective system of secondary schools are cogent and valid and the new Secretary of State should heed them.

Though schools will have to obtain permission to change character to become selective there are not as yet, to my knowledge, any requirements as to how selection shall be made. At least under the old 11-plus system, for all its faults, the selection was (and still is) in those LEAs with selective schools carried out impartially and uniformly through the LEA by officers with no axe to grind.

Will heads and governors of grant-maintained schools use only "academic" means, or will they be able to devise their own, or will they have the freedom long enjoyed by independent schools to accept or reject for quite other reasons?

If, as we are led to believe, the government wants all secondary schools to become grant-maintained (and they all become selective, as intended in Wandsworth), what happens to those 11-year-olds selected by no one? Will LEAs have to build new schools to accommodate them, and will those schools in turn eventually become grant-maintained?

How long will it be before grant-maintained primary schools are allowed to become selective, and what criteria will they use to select 4½-year-olds?

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS HATFIELD,
General Secretary,
Society of Education Officers,
20 Bedford Way, WC1,
April 27.

From Mr Andrew Turner

Sir, You assert that "roughly a third" of the 219 grant-maintained schools are "in the process of... changing their character", code for becoming selective.

There is no evidence that as many as a third are seeking to "change their character". Furthermore, that phrase can cover, for instance, the admission of boarders or of pupils at 11 instead of 12, or the reinstatement of a sixth form, or a number of other such changes — none of which amounts to selection.

You also press the new Secretary of State to declare for or against countrywide selection at 11 — apparently on the basis of an application by a West Yorkshire grant-maintained school to admit pupils (if oversubscribed) by reference to ability, and of a suggestion that Wandsworth might make all its secondary schools selective. There is no need either for such a declaration, or for any single pattern.

I am sorry that you see "local council schools" as likely to become "third class". If you regard schools which serve less-able pupils as inferior and all schools as doomed to become selective, that is a possible conclusion; but it is based on two premises that neither I nor those who work in grant-maintained schools share.

The pursuit of certainty in an uncertain world is an understandable human trait, particularly strong in the bureaucrat. The schools which get ahead — for the benefit of staff, pupils and local communities — are those which are prepared to take risks. Grant-maintained status has, in every grant-maintained school, been a risk that has paid off.

Your obedient servant,
ANDREW TURNER (Director,
Choice in Education,
36 Great Smith Street, SW1,
April 27.

From Dr Judith Scott

Sir, Donald Naismith, Wandsworth's Director of Education, accuses grant-maintained schools, such as this one in the borough, of thwarting parental choice by remaining as comprehensive schools rather than choosing to become selective (report, April 27). Nothing could be further from the truth.

Two years ago all Wandsworth secondary school governing bodies, with overwhelming parental support, unanimously rejected Mr Naismith's proposal to turn our schools into specialist "magnet" schools. We all opposed this policy precisely because it would have resulted in a two-tier system, with those schools specialising in academic subjects being regarded, effectively, as grammar schools.

Having failed to persuade us of the wisdom of magnet schools, Mr Naismith tried to use financial pressure to force schools down that path. Some of us very quickly realised that the only way to maintain the comprehensive ethos which our parents like was to opt out of local authority control.

We always knew that a fourth Conservative term would herald the resurgence of grammar schools and that Wandsworth would be the seed-bed for it. But clearly such a policy has very little parental support here, not least because at least 70 per cent of children would fail to be selected for such schools, thereby ending up in the equivalent of the old secondary moderns.

Grammar schools choose pupils, not vice versa. For Mr Naismith to argue that the introduction of these schools would enhance parental choice is disingenuous indeed.

Yours faithfully,
JUDITH SCOTT
(Chairman of Governors),
Burnwood School,
Burnwood Lane,
Wandsworth, SW17,
April 27.

From Mr George Crowther

Sir, So Wandsworth is to choose pupils for a CTC (city technology college) education at the age of eight (report, April 24). The 11-plus was found wanting; so what chance is there for an 8-plus?

Children of eight are not little adults: their brains, whatever their potential, are only partially developed. Who knows what the future holds for them? Must we be rigidly deterministic?

Most children of eight have an interest in practical toys. Others will testify to their child's interest in music, ballet, or drawing. These interests are a vital part of a child's development, but most children do not sustain them because they grow and develop, their interests change, and they move on to other activities.

Children of eight should not be pigeon-holed into a particular type of education.

Yours faithfully,
G. R. CROWTHER
(Chartered educational psychologist),
Little Hill, Colley Manor Drive,
Reigate Heath, Reigate, Surrey,
April 24.

Trappings of English

From Mr Richard Odgers

Sir, Mr Eric Adler's daughter (letter, April 23) will need to explain to her students the maudlin behaviour of Hilaire Belloc's "Aunt Jane", who was "up before anyone's dawn — that is, down before anyone's up".

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD ODGERS,
The Coach House, Leeson,
Langton Matravers, Swanage, Dorset.

From Mr Charles Quinn

Sir, We talk about bringing up a child, bringing up a subject, bringing up your dinner. It's enough to bring you out in a rash.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES QUINN,
Park Cottage, Park Lane,
Ashted, Surrey.

From Mr Nick Milner-Gulland

Sir, No sooner are our children sitting down for up for their meal than they are wondering whether to ask permission to get up or down at the end.

Yours sincerely,
NICK MILNER-GULLAND
(Headmaster),
Cumnor House School,
Nr Haywards Heath, Sussex.

From Mr Julian Trever-Evans

Sir, In Sussex we go up the Downs. Yours faithfully,
JULIAN TREVER-EVANS,
Magnolia House, Cuckfield Road,
Hurstpierpoint, Sussex.

Business letters, page 21

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Women victims of porn industry

From Ms Rachel Wingfield

Sir, The article by Caroline Sullivan on Penthouse's new magazine, *For Women* ("More sex with your beef-cake", April 15) states that "female-directed sex magazines are not virgin territory". It may be true that there are a few women editors in the pornography industry, but they do not have power or control in it.

The British porn industry grosses more profits than the mainstream record and film industries combined. Those who run, own and profit from it are certainly not women — and certainly not the women who appear in the films and magazines which female editors are employed to legitimate.

For Women is the latest attempt by the porn industry to legitimate itself. Of course the male nudes in this magazine are necessary, to answer Caroline Sullivan's question. Without them the industry would not be able to say, "look, porn isn't a problem, it's not about male power — women have porn too".

Somewhat, women are expected to give up protesting about the way women are treated in the porn industry world-wide (particularly in the Third World), and not to mind any longer that pornography consistently equates male sexual pleasure with violence and domination, because there are a couple of magazines on the market showing "glamorous" pictures of men.

Isabelle Koprowski, managing editor of the Penthouse company, argues that there is no link between pornography and sexual violence. Of course, no one is simplistically arguing that a man rapes a woman with a porn magazine in one hand. What is known, however, especially to people like myself who work for the Campaign Against Pornography, is that the world around us, including what we read and see, influences our behaviour.

If men are educated to equate power and violence with sexual pleasure, then this provides a social context where violence against women becomes more acceptable.

Yours etc.,
RACHEL WINGFIELD,
London Women's Centre,
Wesley House, 4 Wild Court, WC2,
April 22.

Afghan turmoil

From Mr Julian Brazier, MP for Canterbury (Conservative)

Sir, As your leader on Afghanistan suggests ("Tribal turmoil", April 27), it could indeed be unhelpful to Ahmad Shah Masood for the West prematurely to recognise the regime he backs, thus labelling him as the stooge of the infidel in the eyes of the Islamic fundamentalists and assisting the cause of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Nevertheless, to suggest that "outside backing to the one leader who offers some prospect of peace to this unhappy country would be a grave dereliction of duty."

For the countries of the West to deny *matériel* to the one leader who offers some prospect of peace to this unhappy country would be a grave dereliction of duty.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN BRAZIER,
House of Commons,
April 27.

Canaletto loan

From Sir Hugh Leggatt

Sir, It is the greatest pleasure to see today's coloured photograph of Mr Andrew Lloyd Webber in the Tate Gallery beside his magnificent Canaletto of Horseguards which he is lending to the gallery for everyone's enjoyment.

On behalf of Heritage in Danger I express grateful thanks and admiration for his most generous loan. I feel sure that countless others will be equally delighted to see this beautiful picture in the heart of London.

Bravo!
Yours faithfully,
HUGH LEGGATT
(Secretary, Heritage in Danger),
17 Duke Street,
St James's, SW1,
April 28.

A golden standard

From Mr W. Baird

Sir, Dr Terence Barnett (letter, April 22) will no doubt be pleased to know that the pre-war cost of entry to the splendid and publicly-owned Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh is still the same today. But do not let the Treasury know: admission is still free.

Yours faithfully,
W. BAIRD,
8 Strathearn Road,
North Berwick, East Lothian,
April 22.

From Mr Richard E. Hollox

Sir, Dr Barnett may wish to be reminded that it is still possible to purchase all the land from the Old Kent Road to Mayfair at its pre-war price.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD E. HOLLOX,
53 Tor Bryan,
Ingstone, Essex,
April 24.

scious of the historic gravity of Gaulle, as he has now realised.

World of art pays tribute to Bacon

Continued from page 1
and there have been few of them. He was rather like a great history painter of the eighteenth century. He was the most ambitious British painter since Sir Joshua Reynolds and Turner. It is the death of a hero."

Bridget Riley said: "I admired Francis enormously and his death is a great loss. I saw his retrospective at the Tate and I think he had fulfilled his particular vision."

Robert Hughes, art critic of *Time* magazine, said: "Francis Bacon went into areas of the human psyche that other modern painters didn't touch. Because he had been around for so long many people felt that he was a bit of a living cliché. But his work went much further than the deployment of shock tactics."

Melvin Bragg, who produced a *South Bank Show* on Bacon in 1985, remembered visiting him at his messy mews house in South Kensington. "He was a man who went his own way and he lived as an old-fashioned bohemian. His flat was unbelievably tidy and should be preserved for the nation. He had a small room that was covered in paint because he mixed colours on the wall, a gaily kitchen and his bedroom."

"He painted every day, starting in the morning, and then he went out and drank an immense amount of champagne. He was one of the world's greatest painters in the second half of the twentieth century. He found his style and subjects in the mid 1940s and he never really changed from that."

Bacon will be sorely missed at Soho's Colony Club where he drank his famous quantities of champagne. Ian Board, the club's proprietor, said: "The club has lost its greatest member. He was a founder member in 1943 and early on he came most days. But in the last two years he came less often because he was ill. Muriel Belcher, the founder, called him 'daughter' and he called her 'mum'."

Mark Fisher, shadow arts minister, said: "He was one of a small number of contemporary British artists who had an international and worldwide reputation. There is no doubt that his work is going to survive into the next generation. It said something about the pain of the human condition."

Diary, page 12
Obituary, page 15



Art out of chaos: Francis Bacon in his studio in London last year, practically submerged in the assorted jumble of his profession

Painter bursting with exhilarated despair

With the death of Francis Bacon, Britain's finest painter of his time, art suffers a grievous loss, writes Richard Clark

man's capacity for bestiality is offset by his stubborn belief in grandeur. Viewers who recoil from Bacon in disgust are unable to grasp the more positive aspects of his art. But they are a vital part of his towering achievement. Bacon set great store by accident when painting, and his finest work is galvanised by an exuberant sense of risk. An inveterate gambler, he loved to surprise himself in painting as in life. The many canvases he destroyed throughout his career testify to his impatience with predictability. In Bacon's greatest canvases, his impulsive handling of paint has an astonishing eloquence as he punnels, caresses, obliterates and coaxes the pigment at will.

At the same time, though, Bacon has a passion for order. His compositions are always calculated and refined, playing off the convulsive figures against areas of flat, semi-abstract colour. His likenesses, painting and the tormented passages in his work gain enormously from

their contrast with the clean, plain areas surrounding them.

Bacon's superb finesse, coupled with an instinctive monumentality, counteracts the depressing aspects of his world. Indeed his exhilaration seems all the more persuasive precisely because it is pitched against the human condition. Bacon's assertion of a resilient vigour could not be more hard won. And in some of his most impressive pictures naked figures close on one another with extraordinary erotic ferocity, as if trying to combat their former isolation.

Bacon will be remembered, not only as the finest British painter of his time, but one of the most outstanding artists anywhere in the late 20th-century world. With his death, painting suffers an incalculable loss. When we met for the last time a few months ago he told me that he hated the thought of death, before pausing and then brightening with defiant cry: "Shall we have some champagne?"

Political sketch

Betty B and the Five Dwarves

With the opening of Euro Disney outside Paris, it is to be wondered how much longer our House of Lords can survive. Public seating arrangements are not as convenient as at Marnie la Vallée, the cast of costumed fantasy-characters is more limited, and there are no rides. But, stuck with a tight budget and an antique script, their Lordships can still put on a show.

Their Palace is a mock-Gothic masterpiece and nearly as good as Sleeping Beauty's Castle. Yesterday, the actors called "peers" who run the show turned up for a double whammy: the blessing of a new Commons Speaker, and the elevation of two old Commons MPs.

As with Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck pageants, the frolic follows a set form. First came Five Dwarves in scarlet with fur trimmings. Four wore Nelson helmets, the fifth a massive Cornish pasty. Such was the dwarves' dignity it was hard to believe that at night they wear pyjamas like normal people.

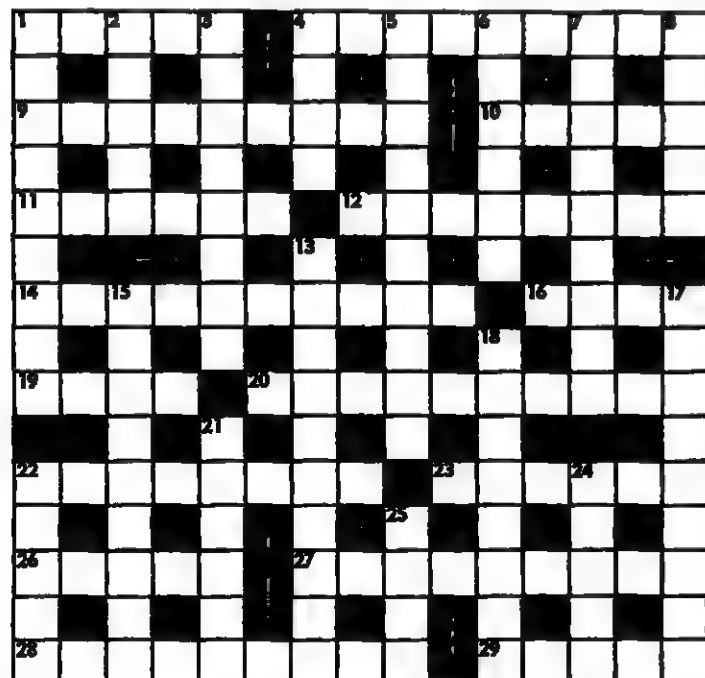
Black Rod came in, a daddy-long-legs Mickey Mouse down to his white gloves. Happy told him to go to the Commons and fetch the new Speaker. It makes a change from selling brochures and saying "have a nice day". Soon Black Mouse returned with Miss Boothroyd, looking grand in a classless sort of way. Now entered the "Reading Clerk". Peers employ a reading clerk to do their reading. Would that we all could.

The Reading Clerk, a gangly fellow resembling Beep Beep the Road Runner, read a message for Betty B from Betty A, saying it was inconvenient to come herself, so could the Five Dwarves do the honours? It took time: the Road Runner had to address each in turn, each bowing and removing his helmet. The royal message, via Beep Beep and the dwarves, was Would Betty B please be Speaker?

"I submit myself with all humility and gratitude," said Betty. "And alacrity," she might have added, but it was not in the script. Beep Beep assured her that the other Betty "would ever place the most favourable construction upon all your words and actions", which was good to know because none of the MPs will. She bowed and departed. The

MATTHEW PARRIS

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,905



ACROSS

- 1 Fear of a god (5).
- 2 Former Chinese capital can be liable to taxation (9).
- 3 Note with account of life insurance pay-out (9).
- 4 Elgar's befuddled by drink (5).
- 5 Widow, about fifty-one, caught here (6).
- 6 Girl with a recorder takes the Circle Line (8).
- 7 It hurts Tom's hands (10).
- 8 Get away from, say, the subject of Mussorgsky's song (4).
- 9 In this way an American lawyer gets a drink (4).
- 10 It's dumb having no address (10).
- 11 Air transport (8).
- 12 Money for the group cut off (6).
- 13 The players aren't meant to hear this dirge, perhaps (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,904

HUMOR SCAVENGER
I E T I I A E
P E D O N Y M G O R G E
P T E C L E I V
O A B I S E X C R A B L E
C W R S A
R E P T I T U S I N G L E
A E P R E O
S U R F I T U P I A N
T H P L N
P A S T E S I N G L E
O N A O T T O T
A N E N T R O A D H O U S E
L N Y B R I R S
M O T O R B O A T C E D A R

DOWN

- 1 Talks at length, or repeats parts (9).
- 2 Point to Strangelove as a subject for this (5).
- 3 Business include service with bill of sale for pipes (8).
- 4 Prophet has not succeeded as a writer (4).
- 5 Jargon I gloat over in this kind of bridge (10).
- 6 Sausage consumed by journalist on motorway (6).
- 7 Not much of a game (9).
- 8 Holy one beheaded by mistake (5).
- 9 Girl in car case gets muddled, the hair-brained child (10).
- 10 Put emphasis on the Tube? (9).
- 11 Sternly inflict a blow on the City (9).
- 12 Church put on comic opera, by name The Duetina (8).
- 13 Row over a royal style of art (6).
- 14 Form of elegance (5).
- 15 Duct used in Mexican alembic (5).
- 16 Ivories from the islands (4).

Concise Crossword, page 11
Life & Times section

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

TOURNURE

- a. Graceful bearing
- b. A change of musical key
- c. A woman's hairdo
- d. To consider worthless
- e. To bluff
- f. To fill with maggots

CERANOSCOPY
a. An early telescope
b. Fortane-calling by lightning
c. An architect's rough copy

POLLAGE
a. Poll tax
b. Dating by tree rings
c. Despatches

Answers on page 14

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0835 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE	London & NW	London & E	London & S
C. London (written N & S Circles)	731		
M1-M25/M25	732		
M1-M25/M25	733		
M1-M25/M25	734		
M1-M25/M25	735		
M25 London Central only	736		
National			
National motorways	737		
West Country	738		
Wales	739		
Midlands	740		
East Angles	741		
North-east England	742		
North-west England	743		
Scotland	744		
Northern Ireland	745		

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

England and Wales will have bright or sunny spells and showers but much of eastern and southern England should stay dry. Scotland will have showers, most of which should die out in the afternoon. Northern Ireland will start dry and bright but cloud will thicken bringing rain during the afternoon which will reach western parts of England, Wales and Scotland by midnight. Outlook: unsettled; rain or showers.

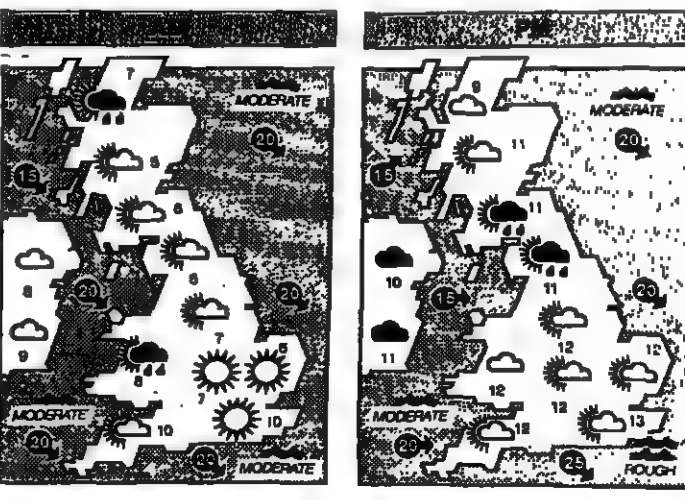
MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=dizzle; fg=fog; a=autumn; s=snow; w=wind; c=cloud; r=rain

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
London	12	10	10	0.0
Manchester	10	10	10	0.0
Birmingham	11	10	10	0.0
Cardiff	11	10	10	0.0
Edinburgh	10	10	10	0.0
Glasgow	10	10	10	0.0
Belfast	11	10	10	0.0
London	12	10	10	0.0
Manchester	10	10	10	0.0
Birmingham	11	10	10	0.0
Cardiff	11	10	10	0.0
Edinburgh	10	10	10	0.0
Glasgow	10	10	10	0.0
Belfast	11	10	10	0.0

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Dorset & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	705
Berkshire, Oxfordshire	706
Bedfordshire & Essex	707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire	708
West Midlands & Shropshire	709
Shropshire, Herefordshire & Worcestershire	710
East Midlands	711
Lincs & Humberside	712
Derbyshire & Yorkshire	713
Shropshire & Cheshire	714
W & S Yorks & Cleveland	715
N E England	716
Cumbria & Lake District	717
S W Scotland	718
W Central Scotland	719
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	720
E Central Scotland	721
Grampian & E Highlands	722
N W Scotland	723
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	724
N Ireland	725

Weather: charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

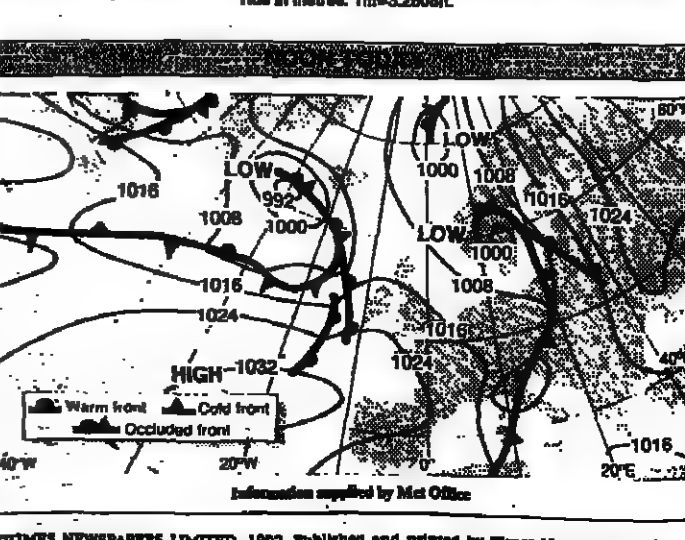


London 8.21 pm to 5.34 am
Birmingham 8.48 pm to 5.31 am
Manchester 8.36 pm to 5.35 am
Preston 8.36 pm to 5.00 am

Sun rises: 5.36 am
Moon sets: 8.21 pm
Moon rises: 5.58 am
Moon sets: 4.58 pm

Today's weather forecast by region.

Region	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
London	12	10	10	0.0
Manchester	10	10	10	0.0
Birmingham	11	10	10	0.0
Cardiff	11	10	10	0.0
Edinburgh	10	10	10	0.0
Glasgow	10	10	10	0.0
Belfast	11	10	10	0.0



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● BUSINESS NEWS 17-23
● FOCUS: DIESEL VEHICLES 24-26
● SPORT 28-32

CBI survey sees upturn in confidence

Major says recovery is under way

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY AND ROSS TIEMAN

BRITAIN's economic recovery "is now under way", John Major, the prime minister, said yesterday. The Conservative election victory had unlocked a recovery that had been blocked by political uncertainty for perhaps as long as a year, Mr Major said. But the prime minister appeared to emphasise his determination to avoid policies that would give stimulus to the recovery in its early stages.

Mr Major's confidence in recovery, revealed in a speech to the annual convention of the Institute of Directors, coincided with a moderately positive survey of business opinion from the Confederation of British Industry. Although the quarterly industrial trends survey, showed business confidence at its best level for four years, CBI officials remained cautious about predicting a fully-fledged recovery. The survey straddled the election campaign, but 94 per cent of the responses were received before the result.

"Optimism and demand are improving, but the question is whether this can be sustained," said Ian Wigglesworth, chairman of the CBI's economic situation committee. He noted that output had continued to decline in the last four months, according to the CBI survey, while investment and employment were both expected to continue falling.

Mr Wigglesworth repeatedly urged the government to take additional measures to strengthen the recovery. Other than interest rates he said that the Treasury should consider increasing depreciation allowances to stimulate investment, despite Norman Lamont's rejection of this idea in his Budget.

Judging by Mr Major's speech to the IoD, however, Mr Lamont was unlikely to face any cabinet pressure to heed the CBI. Mr Major lavishly praised his Chancellor for the "outstanding job" he had done over the past 18 months. Mr Lamont had "never taken the easy road, but always the right one" and had rarely got credit for it, the prime minister said.

His speech made it clear that official thinking remains overshadowed by a fear of repeating the boom and bust cycle which appeared to threaten re-election. "We need a recovery that is steady and sustainable, not one that recreates the problems from which we are now emerging," Mr Major said.

The CBI survey, considered the most reliable indicator of business opinion, did show the clearest evidence of outright optimism among businessmen in four years. On the key question, whether the general business situation would be better in the next four months than in the four months preceding the survey, 25 per cent of respondents said they were optimistic, while 17 per cent said they were pessimistic. The balance of plus 8 per cent was the highest since 1988.

However, CBI spokesmen conceded that part of the big improvement from January's balance of minus 24 per cent was due to seasonal factors. Confidence usually improves in spring and government statisticians believe that seasonal adjustment is necessary in interpreting the CBI figures.

Applying the government's seasonal adjustment factors, the balance of business optimism in the April survey remained slightly negative at minus 1 per cent. Excluding seasonal factors, the improvement since January was only 15 per cent, rather than the 32 per cent suggested by the unadjusted figures.

TODAY IN BUSINESS
ADDED SPARKLE
Facing a 1.5 per cent fall on sales in the first half of this year, De Beers is to spend nearly £100 million promoting diamonds
Tempos, page 20

BLOC ALARM
The arrival of the old Soviet bloc seeking IMF funds has alarmed developing nations
Page 21

THE POUND
US dollar 1.7745 (-0.0047)
German mark 2.9377 (+0.0008)
Exchange Index 92.4 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET
FT 30 share 2081.2 (-12.5)
FT-SE 100 2651.0 (-7.2)
New York Dow Jones 3298.97 (-5.59)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 17527.40 (+78.88)

INTEREST RATES
London Bank Base 10 1/2%
3 month interbank 10 1/2%
3 month eligible bills 10 3/4%
US Prime Rate 8 1/2%
Federal Funds 3 1/4%
3 month Treasury bills 3 7/8%
30 year bonds 9 1/2%

CURRENCIES
London: £ \$1.7745
New York: £ \$1.7780
£ DM2 9383
£ Sfr2 9607
£ FF4 8975
£ Yen236 15
£ Index 92.4
ECU 50 698855 SDR 20 772119
ECU 1430911 £ SDR1 295137

GOLD
London Fixing: AM \$336.80 pm \$336.75
close \$336.80-337.20 (£188.70-190.20)
New York: COMEX \$337.25-337.75

NORTH SEA OIL
Brent (May) \$19.20 bbl (\$19.05)

RETAIL PRICES
RPI: 136.7 March (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price



Time's up for Midland: Sir Jeremy Morse, left, and Brian Pitman, confirm their unity over whether to make a £3.7 billion bid for the bank

How Lloyds decided to go for the Midland

IN AN hour-long press conference yesterday, Sir Jeremy Morse, Lloyds Bank chairman, and Brian Pitman, chief executive, were determined to scotch any rumours of boardroom disagreements over whether or not the bank should launch its £3.7 billion bid for Midland.

The assembled journalists, note books, tape recorders and cameras at the ready, refused, of course, to believe it. They kept going back to the issue again and again. There is, after all, no such thing as a decent story about a harmonious board.

Morse, they would reason, is exceptionally bright. He is a classics scholar, and, as a Winchester schoolboy, masters deferred to his superior knowledge. He gained a double first at Oxford and is able to do *The Times* crossword in minutes. The whodunnit television series, *Inspector Morse*, is based on him and he is such an able chess player that he was once president of the British Chess Problem Society. A man with his head in the clouds, for sure. And the sort of person, therefore, who would find the prospect of a hostile bid battle brutish and abhorrent.

Pitman could be seen as his antithesis: a grammar school boy, who left at 16 even though he had been top of his class. He says: "I decided against a university education because I didn't want my mother to have to keep me forever." Money was tight. "I lost my father in a car crash when I was just nine weeks old."

Early ambitions to play cricket for Gloucestershire or to be a trombonist were abandoned and Pitman joined Lloyds four years later. His hobbies, listed in *Who's Who* as golf, cricket and music, are significantly different to Morse's, who cites a penchant for poetry, problems and puzzles.

Bid might go to Brittan's team

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission might investigate Lloyds Bank's likely bid for Midland Bank, sources in Brussels said. The rival bid by Hong-kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation has already been referred to Sir Leon Brittan for preliminary investigation.

The news contradicts weekend reports that both bids could only end up with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission — if there were to be any investigation — because the assets of all three companies within the EC are concentrated in Britain.

The £3.3 billion Hongkong and Shanghai bid values Midland shares at 401p each. The rival Lloyds bid

any Brussels threshold for investigation, when companies have the majority of their interests in one member state then any competition investigation is carried out by domestic regulatory authorities.

Lloyds, whose officials were in touch with Sir Leon yesterday, wants both bids to be investigated by the same authority, if full-scale enquiries are launched.



Brittan: talked to Lloyds improves that, but it is being opposed by both Midland and the banking unions, as they are aware that Lloyds plans to make 20,000 of the bank's combined workforce of 100,000 redundant.

Whether the bank battle will be a purely British investigation depends on a complicated commission formula that multiplies one tenth of a bank's world assets by the ratio between its EC loans and its world loans. A second calculation then multiplies one tenth of world assets by the ratio between loans in Britain and global loans.

If the latter figure is two-thirds of the former, showing a majority of business to be in Britain, then Brussels will not investigate further. "It's so complicated that I just can't predict anything at the moment," Sir Leon's spokesman said.

Battle for Midland, page 1
Diary, page 12
Leading article, page 13
Market report, page 20
Business Letters, page 21

Withdrawals exceed savings at societies

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

BUILDING societies had an outflow of funds last month of £172 million. This is only the eighth time that withdrawals have exceeded savings since records began in 1956. Five of the previous occasions were the results of withdrawals to fund privatisation applications. The others were during the three-day week in 1974.

Competition from National Savings has attracted money from societies. This is likely to mean that some attractive mortgage offers for first-time buyers will be withdrawn and

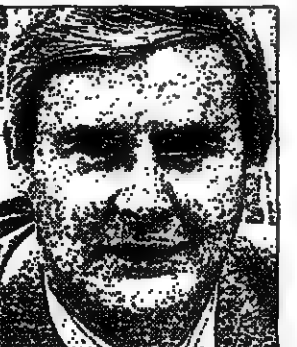
that any bank base rate reduction will not be matched with a fall in mortgage rates. Jim Birrell, chief executive of the Halifax, said: "If we get a half per cent off base rate we will certainly do what we can to make some reduction in mortgage rates but margins are already very tight."

John Wigglesworth, an analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, said: "Borrowers will not get the full benefit of base rate cuts because of this competition for savers."

If the expected outflow continues, the societies may be forced to ask the government to allow them to compete on equal terms when offering savings accounts, an association official said.

The societies have been campaigning for 18 months for changes to the Building Societies Act to allow them to increase their wholesale funding.

Cliff The Leeds Permanent building society more than doubled its provision for bad debts in the six months to March 31, 1992.



Birrell: "margins tight"

Get a little Xtra debt from the Halifax

BY OUR MONEY EDITOR

THE Halifax Building Society is to offer school fees funding to hard-pressed parents and will also pay off credit card and other debts as part of a scheme launched yesterday.

To benefit from the scheme, parents have to remortgage with the Halifax. They will then be able to borrow up to 85 per cent of the value of their property.

The loans are being offered by the Independent Schools Information Service. In conjunction with Claremont Savile, the school fees planners. The ISIS school fees special reserve account was launched by Halifax as ISIS announced the first dip in numbers attending independent schools since 1983.

John Wigglesworth, analyst at UBS

Phillips & Drew, said the Halifax's move into school fees indicated it had "given up on new activity in the mortgage market and is trying to get people with homes to increase their debt."

When the housing market was rising, lenders allowed homeowners to release equity to pay off debts and to buy goods. This was stopped when interest rates began rising and property values fell.

The scheme, which uses the tax advantages of pension contributions, also allows other loans to be consolidated. The interest rate charged is the Halifax mortgage rate. Michael Kay, chairman of Claremont Savile, said one family that remortgaged during a pilot scheme had reduced their outgoings by £8,000 a year. Others could increase their spendable income by up to 56 per cent. The

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INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS' ANNUAL CONVENTION

IoD chief envisages Britain as Hong Kong of Europe

A VISION of Britain as a "sort of Hong Kong of the single market" was painted by Peter Morgan, director general of the Institute of Directors, in his keynote speech to the IoD's annual convention yesterday.

In a wide-ranging celebration of the defeat of communism and the return of a Conservative government in Britain, Mr Morgan attacked past economic failings and called on business and government to deliver prosperity in the nineties.

"The people have given power back to the market and they now expect the market to perform — in other words to deliver jobs and prosperity," Mr Morgan said.

"They expect markets to do this in an ethical way, so that everyone can feel at ease with capitalism. As capitalists we must regret the last three years. In those years, jobs and prosperity were not delivered. They must be delivered in the

nineties." That was a theme echoed, though rarely with Mr Morgan's directness, throughout the day.

Beneath the towering dark blue backdrop of the IoD podium at the Royal Albert Hall in London, John Major, the prime minister, also acknowledged the disappointments of economic performance in the late eighties.

Speakers seized on the conference theme, "Power, Performance and Ethics" to examine the triumph of capitalism over communism. Some, like Mr Morgan, were exultant. Others, such as Carl Hahn, chairman of the board of management, insisted that there were neither winners nor losers, simply a huge mess requiring money, compassion, and a reassessment of Western interests, too.

Ethics were a moveable feast. Business had a responsibility to the environment and the communities in which it operated. But it must

also focus upon ethical behaviour to enhance sales.

Sir Allen Sheppard, the chairman of Grand Metropolitan, the food and drink group, warned the 3,000 IoD members and guests that they should not ignore the emergence of the "active consumer."

The customer of the nineties, said Sir Allen, would influence the prosperity of huge corporations by making purchases according to whether the manufacturer or supplier behaved in a moral way.

But it was Peter Morgan who set out a crisp agenda for government to enable business to pull Britain out of recession.

The eighties saw the start of an enormous transfer of power both from government to market forces and from government to independent regulators, he said. This had been achieved by three means. Emphasis had shifted from producer to consumer, nationalised industries had been sold, and the boardroom had regained power from the shop floor.

But at the same time, companies had been exposed to the rigours of domestic and international competition as never before. But while politicians might promise jobs, only business could create them, and politicians could only increase public spending if business paid taxes.

"At the moment, there are neither enough jobs, nor sufficient tax revenues," Mr Morgan said.

The underlying strength of business had improved during the past decade. But the success of the UK economy was less dependent upon large quoted companies. For its future prosperity, Britain must rely upon encouraging inward investment, and stimulating smaller firms to grow.

"That is why the IoD supports the idea that the UK should be the natural home for enterprise in Europe, a sort of Hong Kong for the single market, and we are delighted that this is an idea that frightens Mr Delors."

The government must continue to reduce the burdens on business and do all in its power to encourage small firms to grow, Mr Morgan said. The IoD's director general said April 9, election day, had delivered the nation's judgment on the transfer of power to the market, and it had been "a near thing."

Free markets had been given a fresh chance to show that they could deliver despite their failings, and those of government, during the late eighties.

Business must now show the "critical chorus of closest collectors... that our system is more honest, free and more effective in taking this country forward to prosperity," he said.



Pointing the way: Carl Hahn, the VW chief, at the IoD convention yesterday

Business urged to create opportunities for the East

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BUSINESS leaders must accept their ethical responsibilities to help the emerging states of Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, as well as for the environment and their own workers, Carl Hahn, chairman of Volkswagen's board of management, told the IoD convention.

"We must open up our markets, not just offer humanitarian aid. We must invest and export. To integrate 300 million people into the Western world, our side will have to implement deep structural change, if we are to give this challenge a fighting chance," he said.

Dr Hahn's appeal was made against a background of increasing discontent among German workers obliged to share the cost of integrating the former East German states through low pay increases and high interest rates. But he was emphatic that business must provide an ethical lead in this, as in other fields where business impinged on people's day-to-day lives.

"As we in Europe acknowledge our economic and political power and recognise the need for out-

standing performance in a competitive world, we must also accept the ethical and moral responsibility that falls upon us as leaders of the developed world," he said.

"We are faced with the spectacle of misery and helplessness. The aftermath of the Cold war is as devastating and complete as any ever fought using traditional means. It is a challenge we must accept, to ensure peace and prosperity for mankind in the 21st century."

Restoring the damage to the environment caused by destructive industrial exploitation was a big challenge in the East, Dr Hahn said. But environmental protection had become imperative. "We must now restore balance to the world, with an approach characterised by the good husbandry of our Earth."

To compete successfully in the future, businesses would have to rely increasingly on the skill and flexibility of their workers, he said. Miniaturisation, cheaper transport and the free flow of information had eroded the traditional advantages European busi-

ness possessed. "More than ever, people are the decisive factor in the competition between companies and nations."

Mind and knowledge, education and training — these are what count today, alongside market economy thinking and social consensus.

In a turn of phrase calculated to raise eyebrows at the IoD convention, Dr Hahn called for a new attitude towards "our partners in collective agreements".

Unions in Britain have repeatedly called for a "social partnership" between themselves, industry, and government. But business leaders in Britain have vigorously backed the government's resistance to attempts by the European Commission to give unions a larger influence in company management.

Although making no reference to the role of unions, Dr Hahn said: "We now see that the best solution is to bring all workers closer to the creation and management of resources, and to invest them with a sense of ownership through increased participation and responsibility."

Active consumer plays key role in new democracy of market place

ONE catalyst for the emergence of a new enlightened form of capitalism is the active consumer.

This was the theme pursued by Sir Allen Sheppard, chairman and group chief executive of Grand Metropolitan, the food and leisure group, as he analysed what he described as a new democracy of the market place.

Another catalyst had been a visionary attitude towards society by business leaders. He said: "When the state encourages free enterprise and steps back from direct intervention in business activity its effect is to motivate businessmen to shoulder greater responsibility themselves. There is no mythical 'they' to solve every problem."

The sense of greater personal responsibility had prompted businessmen to see that the prosperity of their businesses was inextricably connected with the prosperity of the whole community. If a community was prosperous, well-educated, well-trained, ambitious and healthy, the prospects for business would be outstanding.

Now enter the active consumers, indicated Sir Allen. And were they, he asked, just like the consumer activists of the past, the erstwhile Ralph Naders?

The difference, he pointed out, was that 20 years ago consumer activists were few in number. Now the active consumers, concerned about "green" and similar affairs, were part of the mainstream of society, from barbers to bankers.

Moreover, they were likely to put their money where their values were — what Sir Allen typified as one purchase, one vote.

He quoted a Tesco director who had pointed out: "The public has changed its perspective from a narrow focus on the quality of the product to a broader concern with the quality of life. Morality is increasingly involved in people's decisions."

Today's consumers were well informed, maintained Sir Allen. Publications were making the general public increasingly aware of the businesses behind the brands and their policies on sensitive issues.

Manufacturers and retailers had also played a role, he added. "They have positively responded to their changing market place and many have taken a pro-active stance and willingly given out information about corporate policy and brand ownership."

Corporate responsibility was an integral part of doing business, said Sir Allen. Both employees and shareholders were becoming increasingly interested in corporate values and attitudes. High quality recruits would cross question would-be employers about their community strategy and

some big shareholders would do the same.

There was a new dimension to marketing, said Sir Allen who went on: "We still have to satisfy old criteria of excellence. We must also ensure that when the public looks behind the brand to ask what sort of people we are they will like what they find."

As an example of commitment to the community, Sir Allen instanced GrandMet's main board committee that concerns itself exclusively with community affairs. The company was involved in the Business in the Community programme and the Business Leaders Forum. Many of the programmes were focused on education.

Governor points way to combat fraud

BANKS, accountants and shareholders must share the blame for the crash of the Maxwell group of companies, but there can be no simple solution to ensure that a similar repetition is impossible, Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the governor of the Bank of England, said.

Warning members of the Institute of Directors against a "counter-productive" search for perfect company supervision, the governor said: "We can create various safeguards, but we can never have a fail safe system. The price of freedom both for individuals and for enterprises seeking to be successful in creating prosperity is eternal vigilance, not eternal reporting."

The governor was responding to criticism of the failure of regulators to prevent a series of City scandals in the late 1980s, and focused on the crash of companies controlled by the late Robert Maxwell, the publisher.

We need to make it much clearer who does what, and the degree of protection provided by each agency's role," the governor said. Expectations of supervisory agencies must be more realistic. None of the groups involved in supervision had any cause for complacency.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton said, and called on companies to strengthen further the role of non-executive directors. The role of chief executive and chairman should in general be separated.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton also placed an obligation upon banks to ensure that they knew the full extent of debts and obligations of companies to which they lend money.

Reports by Ross Tieman and Derek Harris

Plea to split jobs of company chiefs

SAFEGUARDS against concentrations of corporate power were urged by Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mrs Mills, the former director of the Serious Fraud Office, said she particularly wanted to see the separation of the functions of the chairman and chief executive of a company.

Concentration of power was to be found mostly in private-sector companies, sometimes bringing advantages but also carrying substantial risks, she said.

"A powerful individual can drive a company almost single-handedly to great success. A powerful individual can also ruin a company by malpractice or criminal actions." A good balance needed to be struck, which was where a number of safeguards could avoid the problems, she said.

At the top of her list was the separation of the roles of chairman and chief executive, but she also proposed the appointment by companies of audit, remuneration and nomination committees. Companies should also ensure that no one was allowed to be the sole signatory to an account.

She also favoured the introduction of "active and effective" non-executive directors.

Mrs Mills said: "All of these measures are safeguards which can protect an organisation against the over-powerful individual who may ruin a company — but they will not inhibit the talents, drive and energy of the successful directors." She said

that there was not the same problem in the public sector. There, constitutional checks and balances made it impossible for power to be concentrated exclusively in the hands of an individual.

There was an interdependence in power, performance and ethics, Mrs Mills maintained. While power without effective performance was useless, power with effective performance but without ethics was positively dangerous. She felt the media spotlight was a good thing, whether it was directed at the public sector — including the criminal justice system — or private-sector companies. Media criticism should be constructive, she added.

Mrs Mills promised a high quality, open and accountable Crown Prosecution Service. It would strive to demystify the law and inject more care into the treatment of witnesses, victims and defendants, she said.



Mills: split functions

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Lloyds Chemis expand

Lloyds Chemicals, the world's largest producer of synthetic fibres, has announced plans to expand its operations in the UK and abroad.

The company, which is a subsidiary of Lloyds Bank, has announced plans to invest £100 million in new production facilities in the UK and abroad.

The company has also announced plans to acquire a number of smaller companies in the UK and abroad.

The company has also announced plans to develop new products in the UK and abroad.

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Quinton departure planned for months

By Jonathan Prynn

SIR John Quinton, the outgoing chairman and chief executive of Barclays, has again moved to scotch the rumour of his departure from the bank. This was backed up by the fact that his successor as chairman would be Andrew Buxton, his managing director of three years.

The first public announcement of the succession was originally planned for the bank's annual meeting tomorrow, but was brought forward because of the rumours. Mr Buxton, 53, and a member of one of the original founding families of the Barclays group, will also be the new chief executive from May 1.

One story last weekend claimed that Sir John had returned from holiday in Mauritius last week to be presented with a *fait accompli* by dissatisfied non-executive directors. When he was asked at the press conference whether he enjoyed the full support of his non-executive directors, Sir John replied, "absolutely".

Shareholders were said to be unhappy about the bank's recent financial performance and, particularly concerned about the size of its exposure to the property market. Some are thought not to welcome the continuation of Barclays' tradition of appointing a chief executive who is also the chairman of the bank. However, Mr Buxton pointed out that the board had deliberately appointed a strong deputy chairman, Sir Peter Middleton, a former Treasury permanent secretary, "who has executive authority across large parts of the group".

Sir John also said that he wanted to "kill the story that I spend all my time on the football Premier League", of which he was appointed chairman last December. Sir John said he spent about two hours a week on his football responsibilities, compared with the 60 to 65 hours a week on bank business.

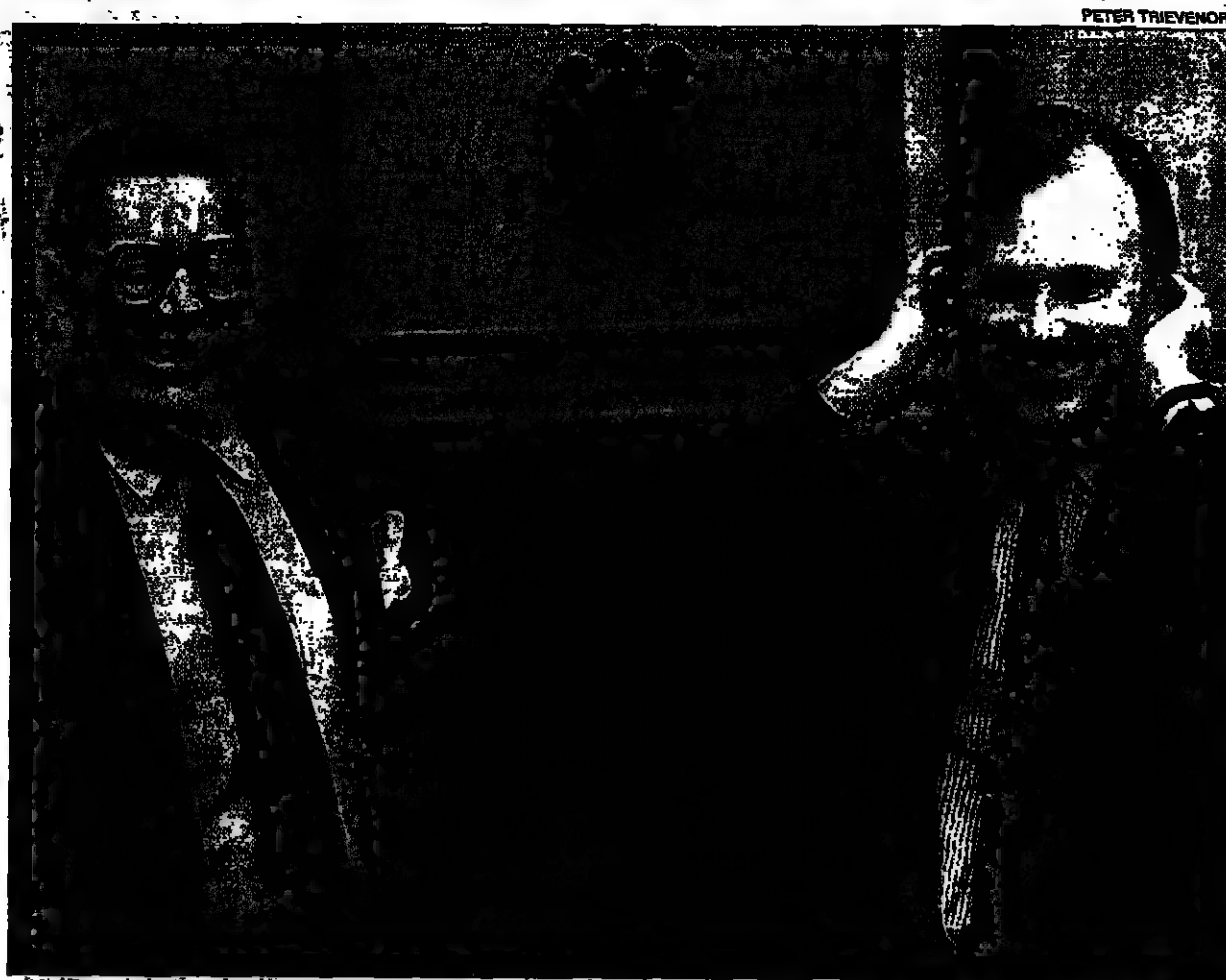
his retirement eight months before the end of the year was in the interests of "achieving an orderly succession", and had "nothing to do with the results of the bank". This was backed up by the fact that his successor as chairman would be Andrew Buxton, his managing director of three years.

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Out in the open: Sir John Quinton (left), who is to leave Barclays, with Andrew Buxton yesterday

IMF seeks an end to trade impasse

By Colin Nibbrough, Economics Correspondent

THE International Monetary Fund, fresh from approving Russia and most of the former Soviet republics as new members, has called for a "rapid conclusion" of the stalled world trade talks to restore dynamism in global trade and maintain credibility in the trading system.

The success of the negotiations is a must, IMF's ruling interim committee said in an emphatic communique that marked the end of its spring meeting in Washington.

The communique said the Uruguay round negotiations, in progress since 1986, would contribute to sustained world recovery and medium-term growth.

The committee stressed the importance of concerted medium-term strategy aimed at sustainable growth and price stability that would strengthen private sector confidence. Economic policy also had to address the convergence required for economic and monetary union in Europe, and to cope with the demand on world savings

Clark gets taste for Strathmore water

By Colin Campbell

MATTHEW Clark, owner of the Old English Sherry and Stone's Ginger Wine brands, is buying Strathmore Mineral Water, of Forfar, near Dundee, for £11 million cash.

Britons drank an estimated seven litres of bottled water each in 1990, compared with 70 litres per person in France, West Germany and Italy, and more than 23 litres per person in America. Britons are forecast to be drinking 17 litres per person by 1996, equivalent to annual sales of 1 billion litres.

Strathmore markets sparkling, still and citrus-flavoured bottled water. Joseph Dunn (Bottlers), its parent company, has agreed to subscribe £3 million for Matthew Clark shares at 414.3p each, giving Joseph Dunn a 7.4 per cent stake.

Peter Aikens, chief executive of Matthew Clark, said that he intends to emulate Strathmore's success in Scotland throughout the rest of the British market.

The deal should complement the group's existing ma-

United Biscuits buys chocolate maker

UNITED Biscuits is continuing its expansion on the Continent with the acquisition of 74 per cent of Aura, of Genoa in Italy. The price was not disclosed, but industry sources estimate that the deal is worth slightly more than £10 million. Aura is a private company, employing 150 people, making premium quality chocolate, particularly pralines, for the Italian market.

Aura, which is profitable and had a turnover of £17 million last year, will operate within Terry's Group, UB's chocolate and confectionery arm. The purchase, which is UB's second confectionery acquisition in mainland Europe after a move into the French market in 1990, will allow the group to expand into southern Europe.

Trust's net assets fall

EDINBURGH Investment Trust, Britain's second biggest, saw its net assets fall 4 per cent to 253.8p per share during the year to end March, compared with a 2 per cent fall in the FT all-share index. The equity portfolio, of which 61 per cent is invested in the UK, was valued at £752.6 million at the year end. Pre-tax revenue rose marginally to £32.9 million (£32.3 million). The final dividend is being increased to 5.2p (4.95p), making a total of 8.05p for the year, a 4.5 per cent improvement. The share price fell 5 per cent to 212.5p during the year and the discount to net assets narrowed from 16 to 11 per cent.

Plastiseal plunges

PLASTISEAL, the manufacturer and fitter of doors and windows, plunged to a loss before tax of £780,000 in the year to end January compared with a profit of £310,000 in the previous period. Turnover fell from £18 million to £13.7 million. There is a loss per share of 6.2p, compared with earnings per share of 2.4p. There is no final dividend, leaving the total for the year at 1.4p (3p). Anthony Marston, the new chairman, said the company had experienced "the worst year on record". Howard Mannan and Michael Price resigned as joint chairmen. Mr Mannan becomes managing director of the operating companies.

Texaco to shut plants

TWO Texaco oil company plants are to close with the loss of 90 jobs. The Manchester lubricants manufacturing plant, where 74 people are employed, will close by the end of the year. The technical centre in Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, which has 16 workers, will shut within the same period. Staff will be offered employment at other Texaco locations or a redundancy package. Texaco has ensured its brands, which include the motor oil Havoline, will continue to be produced by signing a 15-year deal with Century Oils, of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. Century will take over the manufacture of the products from June.

Folkes lifts dividend

FOLKES Group, the property, engineering and building products company, is raising its dividend despite a slide in profits. Heavier losses in the building products division and an absence of an interest gain contributed to a 37.8 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £2.5 million last year. Earnings per share slipped from 7.49p to 4.83p. However, the final dividend is raised to 1.8p (1.75p), making 2.375p (2.3p). Turnover declined to £45.2 million (£47.7 million). There was a net interest charge of £60,000, against net receipts of £919,000 last time. The company said it has yet to see signs of a recovery.

Consumer role in democracy place

one big shareholders would be the same.

There was a new dimension to the message, said Sir Allen. "We still have to ensure that the public looks at the brand to ask what it is that they find."

As an example of commitment to the community, Sir Allen instanced GrandMet's main board committee that concerns itself exclusively with community affairs. The company was involved in the Community Programme and the Business Leaders Forum. Many of the programmes were focused on education.

Governor points way to combat fraud

BANKS, accountants and shareholders must share the blame for the crash of the Maxwell group of companies, but there can be no simple solution to ensure that a similar repetition is immediate. Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the governor of the Bank of England, said.

Warning members of the Institute of Directors against a "counter-productive" search for perfect company supervision, the governor said: "We can create various safeguards, but we can never have a fail-safe system. The price of freedom, both for individuals and for companies seeking to be successful in creating prosperity, is eternal vigilance, not eternal reporting."

The governor was replying to criticism of the lack of regulators to prevent a series of City scandals in the 1980s, and to the crash of companies controlled by the late Lord Maxwell, the publisher.

We need to make it clearer who is what, and the degree of protection provided by each agency, he said. Expectations must be realistic. None of the agencies involved in supervising any company can be held responsible for any failure, and the role of the non-executive chairman should not be separated.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton placed an emphasis on banks to know the companies to which they lend money.

Reports by Ross Fife and Derek Horn

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Reports by Ross Fife and Derek Horn

GrandMet sells Irish dairy arm

By Jon Ashworth

GRAND Metropolitan, the food, drinks and retailing group that owns the Burger King chain, is selling its Irish dairy interests for £199 million (£89.9 million).

Waterford Foods is paying £178 million for the operations of the Express Foods Group with the exception of Express's 80 per cent interest in Carbery Milk Products. This interest is being bought by Carbery Creameries for £121 million. Both agreements are subject to the approval of Irish regulatory authorities.

Ian Martin, GrandMet's

managing director, said that the deals fitted in with the company's aim of developing branded businesses.

GrandMet is selling operations that do not carry a strong brand name, and bulk milk supply was no longer in keeping with its strategy.

GrandMet sold its Express Dairy and Eden Vale businesses in November for £359 million, but continues to operate its Express Foods cheese and food service businesses in the UK.

Waterford will continue to supply cream for Bailey's Original Irish Cream.

GrandMet paid between £80 million and £100 million for control of Cinzano in January, adding it to other brands in its drinks range, such as J&B Scotch whisky and Smirnoff vodka.

The group then bought an American maker of frozen bakery products to complement its Pillsbury food operations and, in a further realignment, sold a 20 per cent stake in Remy Martin and Cointreau, the French cognac and liqueur companies, for £100 million.

The company reports its interim results on May 14.

Bibby makes bid

By Our City Staff

BARLOW Rand, South Africa's largest industrial conglomerate, is making a £75 million push into continental Europe.

J Bibby & Sons, Barlow Rand's UK subsidiary, is bidding £75 million in cash for Finanzauto, the sole authorised dealer of Caterpillar earthmoving equipment in Spain and Portugal.

Barlow Rand has held the Caterpillar dealership in South Africa for 64 years and makes Caterpillar trucks and excavators under licence. Finanzauto has said that it will reject the bid. Shares in the company were suspended on Thursday and the offer represents a 21 per cent premium on the suspension price.

The City has been awaiting such a move since 1984 when Barlow Rand paid £300 million for an 86 per cent stake in Bibby. The stake has since declined to 79 per cent.

Bibby's pre-tax profits rose from £17 million to £17.3 million in the 26 weeks to March 28. There is an unchanged interim dividend of 2.85p. Earnings per share slipped 4.6 per cent to 9.23p because of dilution of the equity after last year's one-for-one bonus issue.

Whitbread issue

Whitbread is raising £50 million by an issue of 11½ per cent debenture stock, maturing in 2011, as a further tranche of a £135 million debenture issued in 1990.

Gencor slips

Gencor, South Africa's second-largest mining group, is raising its interim dividend from 15 to 16 cents despite a drop in half-time net attributable profits from R764 million to R562 million (£110 million).

Hicking buys

Hicking Pentecost, the textiles and specialist forgings group, is paying up to £500,000 for the Thompson Horseley Bridge water storage business from Northern Engineering Industries.

Explaura loss

Explaura Holdings reports pre-tax losses of £2.11 million (£1 million loss) for last year. Explaura, as a developing mining operation, is not yet a dividend payer.

EC revises car dealership blueprint

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

MARTIN Bangemann, the EC industrial policy commissioner, has "watered down" his insistence that selective dealerships should maintain their stranglehold on the car market, commission sources said yesterday.

They say that a new Bangemann paper on the future of the European car industry has been revised to take on board the views of Sir Leon Brittan, EC inspection commissioner and long-time critic of car dealerships.

Sir Leon wants "independent" dealers to be able to sell cars, and is opposed to supermarkets taking a share of the market.

Meanwhile, Sir Leon's spokesman said that the commissioner's controversial report on car pricing, which had been expected to emerge from Brussels today, has been delayed while Herr Bangemann presents his report on the state of the EC car industry. "He didn't want to be confused", said the

spokesman. Sir Leon's report says that the dealership system is responsible for price differences of around 40 per cent on several car models in the EC.

The Association of European Car Makers, ACEA, yesterday refused to comment on the dealerships issue. Rudolf Beger, its secretary general, complained that both the Brittan and Bangemann documents had been made available to the press, while the industry itself had been kept in the dark.

"I talked to the European dealers' association this morning and they had no idea what was going on," he said.

Herr Bangemann's paper calls for research and development funds for the car industry to be boosted, and to be channelled into specific areas of study.

It says that last year over £4 billion was spent on research and development by manufacturers and about £2.8 billion by equipment suppliers. These figures are comparable with amounts spent in America and Japan, it says, but the investment effort is not being matched by market results. The docu-

ment hints that EC car makers' standards have lagged behind their Japanese rivals.

Any increase in EC funding to the car industry would depend on Jacques Delors, the commission president, getting his controversial budget proposals past member states — and Britain is opposed to any R&D money that "does little more than help prop up ailing EC industry giants."

ACEA says car dealerships must stay because they guarantee the customer after-sales service and promote the image of EC carmakers. They also prevent independent suppliers bringing Japanese cars into Europe, and therefore provide the commission with a means of controlling Japanese exports until the end of the century.

Car industry sources are bitterly critical of the methodology used in Sir Leon's report. One industry source said yesterday that the same consultants who prepared the report admitted its figures could be "interpreted in different ways."

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STOCK MARKET

Sell-off talk lifts Lasmo shares

SPECULATORS drove the shares in Lasmo, the oil exploration group, up another 11p to 239p amid increasing hopes that the group is close to making another big disposal. Lasmo's share price has come up from about 195p in the past month. At the time of its £1.2 billion bid for Ultramar last year, the shares stood at 330p but, subsequently, have been as low as 175p with fund managers taking a cautious view of prospects as well as the higher level of debt.

There has been persistent talk recently about a bid from Europe with the French oil groups Elf Aquitaine and Total both mentioned. However, hopes are now growing that Lasmo has found a buyer for its Wilmington oil refinery in California, which could fetch as much as £400 million.

Alan Sinclair at Smith New Court, the broker, expects the disposal to be announced within the next three months and he expects Wilmington to fetch a good price. However, he doubts the likelihood of a bid and says that the recent resurgence in the share price stems from better information about the company. He said: "The rest of the market

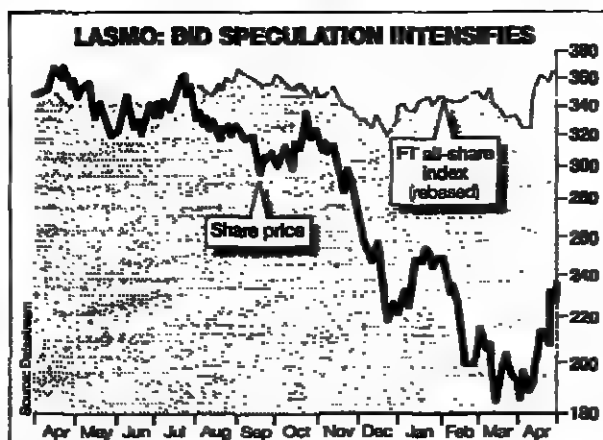
has been hard on the company over the Ultramar deal, but it now looks as if there has been a change of heart."

The rest of the oil attracted selective support, helped by overnight buying on Wall Street where investors have been attracted by yields. BP, which is reporting next month, rose 7 1/2p to 263 1/2p. Enterprise Oil 7p to 420p, Clyde Petroleum 1 1/2p to 53p, Barmah 6p to 60 1/2p, Shell 3p to 47 1/2p and Hardy Oil 2p to 10 1/2p.

The rest of the equity market spent a drab day, drifting on lack of interest after the overnight setback on Wall Street and before the Bank holiday weekend. The CBI survey, indicating that an end to the recession may be near, encouraged the bargain-hunters in after-hours trading and so enabled prices to close off the bottom. The FT-SE 100 index, down almost 23 points earlier, closed 7.2 points off at 2,651.0. Turnover reached 605 million shares.

Government securities attracted little support and finished with falls of about 1/4% at the longer end.

Midland Bank was the main focus of attention, rising 13p to 39 1/2p on a turn-



over of 26 million shares, as its rival, Lloyds, announced that it was proposing to launch a bid, valuing the group at £3.7 billion. Lloyds said that it planned to offer

than the all-paper offer from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank of 378p. However, Lloyds issued a warning that it might not proceed with its offer if it were referred to the

Clinton Cards, the retailer of greetings cards, consolidated Monday's 9p rise, finishing unchanged at 85p. The shares tumbled from a peak of 300p last year after the company dropped into the red. However, Clinton is now back on a recovery track and this has led to claims that there may soon be a bid. WH Smith may already have made an approach.

one of its own shares, 10p lower at 417p, plus 30p in cash, for every share in the Midland.

The deal values Midland at 447p a share and is higher

monopolies commission. Dealers were waiting to see last night if HSBC, the parent of Hongkong and Shanghai, was prepared to increase its all-paper offer and introduce

a cash element. News of the proposed offer from Lloyds sent HSBC climbing 6p to 306p.

Barclays lost 6p at 353p as Sir John Quinlan confirmed his decision to step down as chairman at the end of this year.

National Westminster shed 1p to 335p as Lord Alexander, the chairman, told the annual meeting that the economy was showing only tentative signs of recovery.

The pre-conditions laid down by Lloyds over its bid for Midland succeeded in dampening some of the bid speculation seen in other takeover targets. There were losses for Allied-Lyons, down 10p at 64 1/2p, Tarmac 5p to 15 1/2p and ICI 3p to £13.70. Hanson, which owns almost 3 per cent of ICI, has been playing down talk that it may be on the look-out for another acquisition. The shares eased 1p to 234 1/2p.

Tesco was unchanged at 291p as it gave a presentation for brokers. Credit Lyonnais Laing has changed its recommendation for the shares in Guardian Royal Exchange, down 4p at 143p, from a hold to a buy.

MICHAEL CLARK

TEMPUS

De Beers sends a message that diamonds are forever

DE BEERS, somewhat perversely, has done itself a favour in baring its soul for the first time to talk, in mid-term, about diamond sale "sights".

Yesterday's suggestion by Julian Ogilvie Thompson, chairman, that first-half 1992 Central Selling Organisation sales could be 15 per cent down on last year's \$2.08 billion first half, gives some stability to an investment market that was jittery with rumours of a dreadful offtake at the year's first three sights.

The fourth sight of 1992 is taking place in London now, and an improved sales trend, already detected, could mean that 1992 second-half diamond sales will exceed 1991's comparable \$1.84 billion.

De Beers, meanwhile, remains the financial muscle to see itself through quieter times, and is thrusting an extra 10 per cent behind its worldwide advertising programme, on which it will spend \$164 million this year, equal to \$449,000 a day.

The impact of lower CSO sales on its diamond account is only part of De Beers' profits profile. Income from De Beers' extensive investments not directly

associated with diamonds, coupled with respectable interest received, have traditionally covered the dividend comfortably, and though interim profits may disappoint, no dividend shocks are expected.

Year-end pre-tax profits could inch up from \$1.03 billion to \$1.09 billion, and at \$24.80 a share the current 17 per cent discount to a net worth estimated at \$30 a share is an attraction.

The group has lived through depressed times before, and has aptly demonstrated its ability to survive. Diamonds, per se, are forever, and the shares are for trading. The hint of brighter days in 1993 suggests that trading days have arrived — with the preference for buying, rather than selling.

Yule Catto

HAVING disposed of its Malaysian plantation interests for £16.5 million in January last year, Yule Catto, the low-profile specialist chemicals and building products group, has removed one of the last remaining concerns hanging over its share price.

The company had been

given well-deserved credit for managing its way through the recession in good shape, but a series of acquisitions had left the balance sheet more highly geared, at 81 per cent, than some analysts were comfortable with. The disposal and some impressive cash generation have since reduced borrowings from £55.2 million to £11.5 million and gearing to 26 per cent, with interest covered eight times.

Yule has a history of growth by medium-sized acquisitions, the latest being Unilink in 1990, and with the balance sheet tidied up, the chances of another bid must be high.

Both sides of the business performed surprisingly well last year, in part a reflection of the geographical spread of Yule's markets, and the company has certainly justified last year's dramatic re-rating.

Earnings seem certain to be pushed ahead again this year, giving Yule a 12-year record of unbroken earnings growth. BZV's forecast of 24 million of pre-tax profits puts the shares on a forward multiple of 14, against 9 a year ago. The shares seem to have caught up with events, although further upward re-rating cannot be ruled out.

Strength, size and diversity—the many facets of De Beers

Six points from Julian Ogilvie Thompson's Chairman's Statement for 1991

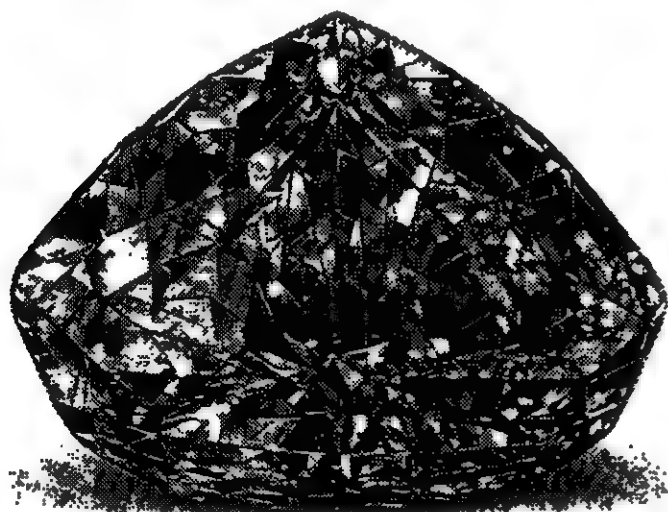
Outlook

Sales of rough diamonds and the combined profits of De Beers/Centenary have held up well in difficult economic conditions — a tribute to the strength and diversity of the Group and its ability to fulfil its traditional role: stabilising the diamond market for producers and the trade in troubled times. When the world economy resumes a reasonable rate of growth the diamond business can be confident of renewed prosperity.

The diamond cutting centres are soundly financed, their stocks are not high and sales of diamond jewellery remain satisfactory. In yen, retail sales of diamond jewellery in Japan were unchanged and this translated into an increase in dollar terms. World sales, therefore, matched the record set in 1990. To sustain retail sales we have increased our annual expenditure on advertising and promotion to US\$164 million.

Producers' support

Major diamond producers have confirmed their commitment to centralised marketing through the Central Selling Organisation (CSO). De Beers Centenary's important sales contract with the former USSR has been taken over by Rossalmazoloto of the Russian Federation and continues to operate satisfactorily. Further proof of the close relations between De Beers Centenary and the Russian Federation's diamond producers was provided in March this



The De Beers Centenary Diamond, at 273 carats, the largest modern-cut top-colour flawless diamond in the world.

year when Sakha (Yakutia) signed an exclusive contract with the CSO. During 1991 the CSO also renewed its contracts with other major producers, Botswana and Australia.

Group earnings

Combined attributable earnings declined by 20 per cent in US dollars to \$763 million — a significantly better outcome than many other natural resources companies — and equity accounted earnings fell by 18 per cent to \$1,078 million. Total dividends per linked unit were 112.1 US cents compared with 111.3 US cents in 1990.

Mining

The US\$400 million Venetia project is now scheduled to achieve full capacity by the end of 1993. With output of 5.9 million carats a year the Venetia mine should make a major contribution to De Beers

Consolidated's production and profits. Debswana's mines produced 16.5 million carats last year and a feasibility study on increasing tonnage throughput from Jwaneng by a third is nearing completion. In Namibia, CDM's on-shore production rose to more than 1 million carats, contributing higher profits to De Beers Centenary and higher revenue to the Namibian Government. The extra carats flowed from the new Auchas mine on the Orange River and the new Elizabeth Bay mine at Lüderitz. A further 171,000 carats were recovered off-shore by Debsmarine on behalf of CDM.

Other investments

The De Beers/Centenary Group's financial strength derived in part from its expanding non-diamond investments: in Neussiedler AG, the Austrian paper manufacturer, as well as in Anglo American Industrial

Corporation and in Highveld Steel. The latter flowed largely from the acquisition of Middelburg Steel & Alloys and is a prelude to the development of the Columbus stainless steel project, which will present a major investment opportunity.

South Africa

We were heartened by the remarkable success of the National Party-Democratic Party alliance in achieving a resounding "yes" vote in the referendum on the continuation of reform. A more challenging task lies ahead — how to agree a new constitution that will strike the delicate balance between legitimacy and efficiency, equity and prosperity. A dialogue is just beginning between business, unions, political parties and government on how to achieve an effective market-driven economic system. There is, however, as yet too little emphasis on the encouragement of investment, individual effort and enterprise. South Africa is, nevertheless, benefiting from its re-integration into the world — in sport, culture, trade, technology and finance — and the outlook is more optimistic than for many a decade.

The full Chairman's Statement is available with the Annual Reports of the two Companies for the year ended 31st December 1991, which have been posted to registered shareholders. Copies may be obtained by writing to the London address below.

WALL STREET

New York — Blue chips were modestly lower in mid-morning, while the broad and secondary share markets weakened. The Dow Jones Industrial average lost ten points to 3,294.56. Shares and bonds showed little reaction to a sharp rise in April consumer confidence.

□ Hong Kong — Shares continued their surge and passed

5,400 for the first time on a statement by Lloyds Bank that it was considering a £3.7 billion bid against HSBC Holdings' agreed takeover of Midland Bank. The Hang Seng index climbed 51.62 points, or 0.96 per cent, to a record close of 5,423.39 after touching 5,442.90. HSBC Holdings jumped HK\$1.25 to HK\$42.75. (Reuters)

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The West starts to count the cost of its Russian rhetoric

The City's role in Sir John's legacy

Barclays Bank duty confirmed that Sir John Quinlan is to retire at the end of the year, handing over the chairmanship to his deputy, Andrew Buxton. At that point, Mr Buxton will become both chairman and chief executive, a position unfashionable (but not necessarily uncomfortable) in that it flies in the face of institutional shareholder views on what is politically correct these days.

Sir John was at pains to point out, without dissent from his boardroom colleagues, that there was no boardroom coup or pressure from non-executives. For some time, though, no one was prepared to be specific on that score. Sir John's departure at the end of this year has been agreed internally. Put another way though, there will be little pressure for Sir John to stay on until he reaches the age of 65 in two years. For the bank, and Sir John personally, the past 12 months have been appalling.

The dash for growth, in the shape of a hefty rights issue in 1988 and the subsequent deployment of the bank's beefed-up asset base, has been a sorry tale of over-exposure to the most vulnerable segments of an economy, switching swiftly from boom conditions to deep recession. In particular, Barclays has suffered from its lending to property market casualties, such as Heron, Speyhawk and Olympia & York.

Even a bank as large as Barclays, one of the few British companies which ranks among the world's biggest in its field, cannot shrug off bad debts last year of £1.55 billion. Its loan book will be badly hit again this year as the tail of the recession blows itself out. Mr Buxton has a substantial task on hand to meet both the aspirations of his customers and his shareholders as loan demand recovers along with the economy. But even as they grumble about the legacy of the Quinlan years, those shareholders should face up to the implications of their own role in the saga. There were few, if any, dissenting voices when Barclays sought its rights issue and no clamour as the money was spent on the dash for growth. Perfect hindsight is no substitute for a timely sense of prudence and the courage to give voice to it.

Halifax dangers

Here we go again. Home owners are being encouraged to use the equity in their properties to pay off credit cards and fund school fees. The only difference this time is that the largest mortgage lender is involved. The Halifax is willing to lend up to 85 per cent of current home values to parents who are struggling to pay school fees and other bills. It will be tempting to the parents and will help the Halifax to increase its falling market share. But it is fraught with dangers for borrowers.

House prices are still falling and the attraction of paying off pressing debts has to be set against the idea of paying for a meal bought on a credit card over the next 25 years. The society will be covered by indemnity policies for loans over 75 per cent of the value of the property. The borrowers will not be so lucky. They could find themselves with a mortgage larger than the value of their property if prices continue to fall as they have done over the last six months or they fall behind with payments. Interest rates may be set to fall in the coming months but even then mortgage borrowers are not expected to get much benefit. They are not guaranteed to stay down forever.

Last time the lenders were willing to let home owners unlock the value of their property, prices were rising. Societies have told us ever since that they were not involved in irresponsible lending. Now they should prove it.

The former Soviet states have joined the IMF and World Bank, but Colin Narbrough asks who will pay their membership fees

Revolutions often devour their children. Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika may have looked, in its time, like sweeping change for the Soviet Union after seven decades of communist command economies. From today's vantage point, with the Soviet Union expired and market reforms shaking the foundations of the 15 republics it spawned, Mr Gorbachev's efforts fade into a blur of confusing and heady changes.

Yegor Gaidar, the 36-year-old Russian deputy prime minister, showed the face of reforming leadership at the International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings in Washington this week. Here was the true disciple of market principles who has boldly dared to go where others feared to tread.

Mr Gaidar has been the driving force behind Russia's exchange-rate and trade liberalisation this year. He also presided over a dramatic freeing of prices and took the sceptre, or was it a sickle, to state subsidies. His appearance at the Group of Seven meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors was described as highly convincing by those who took part. Persistent doubts about the ability of a halving world economy to bear the dead weight of the former Soviet Union seemed at least overcome, if not entirely dispelled.

The formal blessing the G7 gave to the \$24-billion package for balance of payments support and routine stabilisation led naturally to the IMF and the World Bank, twin pillars of post-war international economic order, warmly opening their arms to Russia and the former Soviet republics.

Given the doors to aid and credit that membership of these institutions should unlock, it must be asked how much the wise heads of the West actually know about the state of the economies in Russia and its erstwhile colonies. We may all be brothers now under the much-feared new global order, but it would appear impossible to take an accurate measure on activity across the 17 million square kilometres and 11 time zones that Russia's empire, let alone the other republics, Russia alone has a population in excess of 148 million. Though crumbling, its economy has great breadth and depth.

The IMF has been sending out experts to assess the situation in the former Soviet Union since the emerging new states started to apply for membership last year. It is no small irony that the head of the department responsible is John O'Connell-Smee, until 18 months ago deputy chief economic adviser to the British Treasury, an institution with



Lean pickings: how long will Russian shoppers queue patiently for reforms to take effect

a poor record for gauging the health of even an open economy such as Britain's. The department's diagnostics led the IMF to conclude that the market reforms demanded of Eastern Europe should also apply in Russia; the system has to be freed up as quickly as possible, financial and monetary policy has to be kept under control and privatisation accelerated.

Mr Gaidar's vigorous action deserves full praise. His political survival, however, is uncertain, as is that of Boris Yeltsin, his president. Furthermore, the Gulf conflict reminded us that Russia is not always what it appears to be, and that it has developed camouflage into an art form. "Potemkin villages" were fake Russian settlements built on the horizon, to please passing royalty keen to see the countryside flourishing.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, rightly sought in Washington to underline the bright prospect if the international community were not to extend support to the former Soviet Union. Does the cost-conscious Chancellor see value for money in early aid, perhaps?

Exactly what the West, including Britain, will have to pay, and for how long, is impossible to say. The IMF estimate has already reached \$100 billion over the next four years,

the equivalent of about 2 per cent of total world investment last year.

Michel Camdessus, the French managing director of the IMF, has suggested two non-inflationary ways to fund the extra demands: the peace dividend and the removal of agricultural subsidies. Merely reducing military expenditure among high spenders to the global average of 4.5 per cent of gross domestic product would release about \$140 billion a year. The abolition of farm subsidies in the industrialised countries would reduce annual public spending by something in the order of \$100 billion.

A successful outcome to the deadlocked world trade talks could release substantial aid, as could western defence cuts already in progress. Given the G7 concern about the size of fiscal deficits, it is unlikely that western governments will pour too large a share of unlocked resources down black holes in the balance sheets of the former Soviet Union.

The IMF expects that the funds needed for the former Soviet Union could rise to about \$25 billion to \$30 billion in the next four years. The World Bank expects to lend \$4 billion to \$5 billion a year from mid-1994, on top of the \$3 billion it will disburse to Eastern Europe. Former

communist Europe will receive a quarter or more of all loans and the intent is that this will only be seed corn to lure the private investor.

The prize for the West's efforts, and the leading industrial economies will have to bear the bulk of the overall cost of aid packages, will be a stimulus to world growth as recovery occurs in Russia and the other republics. If the 17 per cent shrinkage in output in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe last year were converted to, say, 4 per cent growth this year, it would more than double the 1.4 per cent overall world growth as projected by the IMF. At present, this is pie in the sky but the IMF's medium-term expectations are for annual growth in the region of 4 per cent. If the IMF-imposed reforms prove effective, the global economy would certainly acquire a healthier form.

IMF programmes should, however, carry a distinct health warning, especially for countries prone to backsliding on commitments to reshaping their economy. Though not conclusive, the evidence from various studies of IMF schemes suggests that countries which failed to meet goals set during the eighties experienced only minimal improvements in growth. An in-house study by the IMF concluded oddly that its fiscal reform scheme had virtually no ef-

fect on a country's growth, possibly only laying the ground for expansion further in the future. Some of the IMF's patients appear not to respond to the medicine, arguably because they fail to take the right dosage. Haiti in the Caribbean is one example.

The arrival of new boys from the old Soviet bloc at the IMF and World Bank, and the attention they command, naturally alarmed the developing nations group. The Group of 24 developed economies issued a communique politely welcoming Russia and the former Soviet republics to the international fold. The real message was that the new members must not be allowed to divert funds away from the rest of the developing world. The poor nations, the G24 noted, were still seeking to cope with pervasive poverty, heavy debt burdens and barriers to their exports. After adjustment for inflation, the flow of funds to the developing countries actually declined in 1991.

Yet the World Bank's latest *Global Economic Prospects and the Developing Countries*, suggests that while the nineties did not begin well for the developing world, there were definite bright spots, particularly in the fast expanding economies of East Asia where growth averaged almost 7 per cent last year. Excluding the former Soviet Union, the developing countries are expected to achieve average growth of 4.9 per cent this decade, compared with 3.2 per cent in the last.

One certainty is that demands on the IMF and the World Bank will increase strongly into the next century. The IMF has already provisionally approved a \$60 billion increase in quota subscriptions to add to the \$130 billion members have paid. America, the biggest contributor to both institutions, has been unable to get approval from Congress for its \$12 billion quota, which has held up the whole process.

This week's Washington gatherings revealed growing annoyance among Japanese and German delegates over America's desire to act as chief navigator to the world economy. Charting the way was a logical task for America at the end of the second world war, but times have changed and the Cold War is over. Nicholas Brady, the American treasury secretary, has failed to convince Germany and Japan of the need to switch the emphasis to growth rather than inflation.

Signals emerging from the spring meetings indicate that Japan, the second biggest contributor to the IMF and World Bank, wants the institutions to loosen their strict adherence to free-market principles, when dealing with developing countries. Government-backed planning, so successful for post-war Japan, is Tokyo's preference. Germany's cosseting of east German industry points in a similar direction. Congress will certainly be unwilling to stump up more money for international bodies set on turning the clock back, especially where Russia is involved.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Close chief keeps his cool

THE boyhood memories of at least one reader of *The Times* were triggered by reports in this newspaper of the bomb damage suffered by Close Brothers, the merchant bank in Great St Helens, next to Commercial Union. Gordon Laird was moved to write to Rod Kent, managing director of Close, telling him of a hit in 1916 when the bank, then in Moorgate, was bombed by a Zeppelin. Laird, who was eight at the time, was taken to inspect the damage by his father, an associate of Close, and recalls staff clearing up broken glass, a scene re-enacted earlier this month by Kent and his colleagues. As if by magic, the drilling stopped in time for Ogilvie Thompson to speak, but De Beers denies reports that it paid off the gas men. Roger van Eeghen, De Beers corporate affairs spokesman, says: "I wish I had that sort of power but in fact it was the rain which saved the day. Perhaps it was the rain dance I did first thing yesterday morning..."



"We might need to expand into the local Midland branch."

Lilian Ogilvie Thompson, the chairman, in the midst of a presentation to analysts. As if by magic, the drilling stopped in time for Ogilvie Thompson to speak, but De Beers denies reports that it paid off the gas men. Roger van Eeghen, De Beers corporate affairs spokesman, says: "I wish I had that sort of power but in fact it was the rain which saved the day. Perhaps it was the rain dance I did first thing yesterday morning..."

Christmas cheers

CHRISTMAS cards have this morning been dropping onto the doormat at Winterflood Securities, in readiness for the market-making firm's Christmas party at the Institute of Chartered Accountants Hall, Copthall Avenue, tomorrow evening. Of its fourth out-of-season festive party in a row, Brian Winterflood, chairman, says it is simply "one hell of a City booze up" held in April because there are too many other parties in December. "It's designed to give

everyone a pick-me-up after the end of the financial year," he says. About 450 guests attended last year and a similar number are expected this year, with a more or less open invitation extended to all Stock Exchange members who have dealings with the firm. A raffle - first prize is a yachting holiday for two - will raise money for the charity Remedy, of which Winterflood is the vice-chairman. If the raffle tickets sell as fast as the alcoholic refreshment, the charity should do well. After last year's bash, the only unopened bottle left on the premises was a bottle of Cinzano. "It's not really a City drink," Winterflood admits.

Vagrant finds home

AFTER three years on the market, millionaire Peter de Savary's private yacht, *Vagrant*, has been sold. It has been bought by a Japanese buyer for about £2 million. De Savary, who is said to be under financial pressure, has, nevertheless, denied he disposed of the yacht to raise cash. He claims it had simply become too small for family holidays, after the birth of his fourth daughter. Last year, for this reason, the family used another luxury vessel, *Taramber*, named after his daughters Tara and Amber. The yacht was left on De Savary's hands after an American who commissioned it cancelled the transaction. The 120ft yacht has just been voted Best Sailing Yacht of the Year by America's *Showboat* magazine and De Savary now hopes a buyer can be found for this boat too, at a price of about £30 million.

CAROL LEONARD

Directors and compensation

From Mrs Elaine Aarons

Sir, As a regular adviser on senior executive severances, I am all too aware of the sensitivity of paying large sums to those that have failed to perform adequately. Current practice is such that the amount of compensation a director receives on termination of employment is governed by the length of notice to which he or she is entitled. However, long notice periods may not be necessary at all. When a company decides to terminate a director's employment, its objectives are usually two-fold. First, the company generally wishes to secure an early departure (invariably without serving any notice) with the minimum adverse publicity or disruption to business. Second, the company in most cases also wishes to ensure that it is duly protected, usually by restrictive covenants, from the departing directors setting up in competition or soliciting customers. Companies and directors should consider whether their

respective objectives can be achieved without providing for long notice periods. A service agreement could provide for the statutory minimum period of notice (the maximum of which is 12 weeks) backed up by provisions stating the amount payable by way of termination payment and the circumstances in which such payment will be made. Performance could be a factor in determining the termination payment (if any) that is payable. Together with well-drafted restrictive covenants, such a system could provide the director with the financial security he is seeking, and, at the same time, address the interests of shareholders. Indeed, this is not dissimilar to practice already adopted in the USA.

Yours faithfully, ELAINE AARONS (Employment Law Partner), Solicitors, 2 South Square, Gray's Inn, WC1.

Woes of galloping growth at two banks

From Mr Frank Selby

Sir, Your Comment (April 24) judges the Bundesbank to be in great woe as it was "unable to stop the galloping growth rate of the German money supply which surged to 9.7 per cent per annum in March". The figures refer to the German M3 - we do not have a measure with that name since 1989 - which is very close to our M4. That rose, according to the impeccable British Bankers' Association *Annual Abstracts*, by an average annual 154 per cent compound in the 11

years to 1990. (BBA's 1991 figures won't come out until May.) That growth rate resulted in a total increase of almost 500 per cent in those 11 years - from £97 billion to £475 billion. If the mark supply surged to a gallop of 9.7 per cent per annum last month, following the unification problems, what has the pound supply done in 11 years? Sincerely yours, FRANK SELBY, 47 Dove Park, Hatch End, Pinner.

Midland and a merger

From Mrs P.J. Campbell

Sir, There has been recent speculation that Midland Bank shareholders may hope for better terms from a hostile bid by Lloyds Bank than they have been offered from HSBC. I cannot comment on the past performance of shares in Lloyds Bank, of which I know nothing. However, from an income of £500 a year from shares in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, acquired 30 years ago, the yield is now £18,000 per annum. This is despite having sold shares in HSBC every year to make full use of our Capital Gains Tax allowance.

Yours faithfully, P.J. CAMPBELL, Fuzetron, Yelverton, Devon.

From Mr Brian Brown

Sir, Your Comment (April 23) bemoans the potential prospect of a merger between the two smallest clearing banks on grounds of competition and choice. Coming as it does from a group which controls more than a third of the national newspaper market and a significant segment of independent television broadcasting, is this not a remarkable piece of cheek?

Yours faithfully, BRIAN A. BROWN, Mulberry House, Garston Road, West End, Esher, Surrey.

Income Bonds

Maximum holding limit

New limit of £50,000

Beginning on 30 April 1992 the £25,000 maximum holding limit for Income Bonds is doubled to £50,000.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Issued by the Department for National Savings on behalf of the Treasury

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-762 512.

Portfolio
PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall net profit and loss for the day. The daily dividend figure, if it is a dividend, is shown on the right of the share price. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend
1	Schell	Industrial	1.00	0.00
2	Mowlem (I)	Building	1.00	0.00
3	Lyle (S)	Textiles	1.00	0.00
4	Widex	Industrial	1.00	0.00
5	BAT	Textiles	1.00	0.00
6	Cellulose	Building	1.00	0.00
7	Bunzl	Electrical	1.00	0.00
8	Morgan Cole	Industrial	1.00	0.00
9	INSTEAM	Electrical	1.00	0.00
10	Newspaper	Newsprint	1.00	0.00
11	Widex	Water	1.00	0.00
12	Flint (S)	Drugs	1.00	0.00
13	Medicine (S)	Drugs	1.00	0.00
14	Bank of Ireland	Banking	1.00	0.00
15	USBC	Banking	1.00	0.00
16	King Shanon	Banking	1.00	0.00
17	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
18	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
19	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
20	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
21	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
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30	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
31	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
32	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
33	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
34	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
35	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
36	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
37	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
38	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
39	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
40	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
41	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
42	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
43	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
44	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
45	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
46	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
47	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
48	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
49	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
50	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
51	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
52	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
53	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
54	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
55	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
56	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
57	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
58	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
59	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
60	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
61	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
62	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
63	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
64	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
65	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
66	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
67	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
68	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
69	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
70	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
71	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
72	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
73	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
74	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
75	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
76	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
77	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
78	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
79	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
80	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
81	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
82	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
83	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
84	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
85	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
86	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
87	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
88	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
89	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
90	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
91	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
92	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
93	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
94	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
95	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
96	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
97	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
98	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
99	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00
100	Alm	Banking	1.00	0.00

Weekly Dividend

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

Two readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mr John Gregory, of Southampton, and Mr Martin Fuller, of Bristol, receive £1,000 each.

1992 High Low Company Price Price % Net % P/E

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Price %	Net %	%	P/E
218	218	218	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
219	219	219	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
220	220	220	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
221	221	221	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
222	222	222	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
223	223	223	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
224	224	224	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
225	225	225	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
226	226	226	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
227	227	227	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
228	228	228	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
229	229	229	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
230	230	230	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
231	231	231	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
232	232	232	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
233	233	233	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
234	234	234	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
235	235	235	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
236	236	236	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
237	237	237	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
238	238	238	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
239	239	239	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
240	240	240	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
241	241	241	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
242	242	242	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
243	243	243	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
244	244	244	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
245	245	245	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
246	246	246	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
247	247	247	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
248	248	248	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
249	249	249	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
250	250	250	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
251	251	251	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
252	252	252	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
253	253	253	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
254	254	254	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
255	255	255	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
256	256	256	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
257	257	257	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
258	258	258	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
259	259	259	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
260	260	260	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
261	261	261	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
262	262	262	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
263	263	263	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
264	264	264	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
265	265	265	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
266	266	266	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
267	267	267	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
268	268	268	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
269	269	269	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
270	270	270	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
271	271	271	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
272	272	272	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
273	273	273	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
274	274	274	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
275	275	275	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
276	276	276	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
277	277	277	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
278	278	278	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
279	279	279	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
280	280	280	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
281	281	281	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
282	282	282	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
283	283	283	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
284	284	284	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
285	285	285	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
286	286	286	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
287	287	287	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
288	288	288	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
289	289	289	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
290	290	290	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
291	291	291	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
292	292	292	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
293	293	293	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
294	294	294	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
295	295	295	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
296	296	296	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
297	297	297	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
298	298	298	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
299	299	299	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
300	300	300	Alm	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

Affiliated-Lyons	64.3	-10	18.88	20.0	3.9	13.3
Alm	820	-	-	-	3.9	13.3
Boddington	165	-	6.6	5.5	1.1	4.4
Bulmer (P)	120	-	4.8	4.4	0.4	1.1
Burtoned-Brown	120	-	4.8	4.4	0.4	1.1
Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
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Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
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Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
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Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
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Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3
Deere (D)	26.3	6.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3

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DIESEL VEHICLES

The clean-up campaign

Somebody should have told Dr Diesel all along that the image of his engines has suffered from a personal problem: B.O. Clouds of black smoke billowing from the exhaust of a passing bus or lorry are the most familiar sight most car drivers get of the ubiquitous diesel engine. In Britain that sight has become an indelible image that has car drivers refusing to believe that diesel could be the fuel of the future.

Oil companies have tackled the smell by adding a deodorant to the fuel. The smokiness is being tackled through a new generation of engines, which is gradually changing the fortunes of the diesel engine in Britain.

Diesel sales in Britain have been negligible while on the Continent they account for as much as a third of all cars sold. In France, for example, where diesel fuel is cheap, more than 31 per cent of new cars sold are diesel-powered.

In Britain, the figure is closer to 8 per cent, although this is rising quickly as motorists appreciate the advantages in cost and for the environment. However, it is taking a long time for the car makers and oil companies to awaken motorists to the potential of diesel fuel.

Tell a car driver that diesel is a clean fuel and you are likely to be laughed out of the room. How can diesel, which billows from the back of an old corporation bus like a huge black storm cloud, be clean? The answer is that it probably is not when showering pedestrians from a dilapidated old omnibus, but the new generation of buses will be cleaner. Well-maintained cars using the latest technology could be even cleaner.

Tests show that modern diesel engines emit less than a third of the unburnt hydrocarbons of a petrol engine without a catalytic converter, only 1 per cent of the carbon monoxide and about 30 per cent less carbon dioxide. Fuel savings over petrol can be between 15 and 25 per cent.

More important, the diesel engine is efficient from a cold start. The average journey in Britain is only 12 miles, not long enough for a petrol engine to get into its stride. Fuel consumption could be only 15 miles to the gallon from an average saloon and exhaust emissions are raised dramatically. Shell says that over a journey of five miles, a diesel can return more than 2.3 times better economy while over one mile

Kevin Eason sets out the advantages of a fuel that has progressed from smells and smoke to green economy



Conversion job: women drivers have to be convinced that diesel does not deserve its dirty image

It is 3.2 times improved. That means cost savings for city drivers, although high-mileage drivers would also feel the benefit of long-legged cars capable of regularly turning in 50 miles to the gallon.

Payback of a premium-priced diesel car, which is up to £750 more expensive than its petrol counterpart, could come in the first 25,000 miles of use — or six months' motoring for some high-mileage users. Some manufacturers, such as Citroën and Vauxhall, have pegged

the cost of diesel-powered cars, which are more expensive to produce than petrol versions, to encourage sales.

In any event, a diesel engine can easily offer a long life of 100,000 to 200,000 miles. It is also more reliable, with no spark-plugs or expensive electronics to cause breakdowns. Recent research shows that diesels are 50 per cent less likely than their petrol equivalents to let down drivers. The fuel is about 20p cheaper than 4-star, and

likely to become less costly still as European governments search for quick and effective ways of reducing city pollution and emissions of carbon dioxide.

The vision of diesel seems utopian. Modern diesel cars, often turbo-charged to match petrol-driven cars in performance, are cleaner and cheaper to run, more reliable and no more noisy or smelly.

So why do so few motorists want to buy them? Diesel sales of

139,000 last year were an improvement but hardly a substantial slice of even a reduced total car market of 1.6 million.

Research by Shell discovered that women, who account for about half the car-buying decisions in Britain's showrooms, simply do not consider diesel as an option, even though a diesel car would suit their driving probably better than any other type of car, as women make, on average, short trips and demand reliability.

Jim Slavin, the director of Shell Retail, says: "Many women seem to drive regularly but do comparatively little mileage, implying that they do a lot of regular but short journeys. In these circumstances, diesel engines are particularly efficient as they require far less time to reach their optimum operating temperature and hence their maximum efficiency."

Clearly, diesel has not been able to overcome the dirty image. Adding a deodorant to get rid of the smell helps, but oil companies have also moved diesel pumps on to their main forecourts, away from their traditional places around the back where van and lorry drivers were expected to fill up while standing in puddles of spilled fuel.

In addition, there is a line-up of increasingly interesting new cars that have translated diesel motoring from slow, noisy progress to sophisticated motoring.

Rover, for example, is soon to launch its diesel Metro range, a small, city car capable of returning almost 65 miles to the gallon with ease, 50 per cent better than petrol equivalents. Yet this new car is not noisy, nor is it smelly or "user-unfriendly".

Can the diesel become a staple motoring diet for the British? It seems unlikely to push out petrol while fuel prices are relatively cheap but Geoffrey Whalen, the managing director of Peugeot Talbot, believes there is room for growth.

Peugeot makes the world's best-selling diesel engines and Mr Whalen says: "Many motorists are waking up to the benefits of diesel. It does not smell, it is not smoky, the cars are not noisy or slow. The driver of a diesel car now has all the benefits and comfort with none of the drawbacks, which means that the 1990s will probably see a powerful growth in the uptake of diesel-engined cars."

A fool and his diesel car are soon parted

Diesel cars are highly reliable. Their drivers cause most of the breakdowns

Diesel cars filled with petrol are not a good mix. Yet absent-minded drivers pumping the wrong fuel into their diesel tanks are the main cause of breakdowns for the RAC.

The cars themselves are so reliable that they barely register on the call-out charts of the leading motoring organisations. Only the fool behind the wheel tends to confuse matters.

Bob Proctor, an RAC technical services engineer, says: "Motorists usually realise it when they come to pay and see the bill. Most times they do not fire the car up, so the problem we have is straightforward, if awkward to deal with. Our patrolman simply has to disconnect the fuel pipe and use a suction pump to remove the petrol from the tank."

"If the car has been fired and petrol has got into the engine then everything has to be cleaned out, which is far more of a job. Given that pumps on the forecourts are already so clearly marked, I do not know what more can be done to avoid this."

One other fault that does arise is occasional failure of heater plugs, which in some models pre-heat the engine, allowing for faster ignition.

RAC patrols carry spares and fitting them is straightforward, so stranded motorists are rarely held up for long.

With diesel sales increasing all the time, all RAC teams receive training in the problems they may find with diesel engines. The RAC's 1,300-vehicle fleet is all-diesel, as is Mr Proctor's Citroën BX company car.

National Breakdown operates the recovery services for all new Citroëns under their Citroën Assist Scheme. The company says: "Both our car and commercial vehicle recovery networks are very familiar with diesel technology. We cannot separate statistics for the reliability of diesel vehicles compared with petrol, although we know that diesel owners are 20 times less likely to run out of fuel." Officers at

the AA's national training centre are also kept up to date with developments in diesel technology. It helps that almost all the AA's 3,500 vehicles are diesel — patrol cars have a vested interest in knowing how to cope.

Simon Jones, an AA spokesman, says: "We are obviously very much aware of the increase in the popularity of diesels and our people are trained accordingly. What is becoming apparent is that diesels do tend to go wrong far less often than petrol cars and even when they do go wrong the fault is less serious and more easily rectified at the roadside."

A Peugeot spokesman says: "The benefits of diesels become most obvious with the onset of poor weather. Reliability is one of the most obvious demands of a car in winter and figures from Germany's ADAC emergency assistance organisation show that diesels are up to 50 per cent less prone to break down than petrol models."

Mr Proctor at the RAC estimates that diesels in Britain are even more reliable than that. He says: "The German figures are based on a much larger and older fleet of diesel cars than those found here."

Diesels mean fewer call-outs for the breakdown services and fewer visits to the garage. Research shows that not only do diesels break down less often, but they cost less to run and need less spent on them during a lifetime on maintenance and servicing. While repairs and replacements for a two-litre diesel car work out at 5.7p per mile, the cost is 6.2p per mile for a two-litre petrol engine, the AA says. The petrol variant is also fractionally dearer to service.

The fleet consultancy PHH AllStar calculates that taking into account servicing, maintenance and repair costs as well as fuel, a 2.5-litre diesel van will cost nearly £3,900 less to run over 90,000 miles than its 2-litre petrol counterpart.

VAUGHAN FREEMAN

Our diesel technology means we can all breathe a little easier.

Vehicle and environment in harmony. It's what we're all striving for. Diesel engines are already recognised as being lead-free and emit 20% less carbon dioxide than catalyst equipped petrol engines.

Lucas have pioneered new Diesel fuel injection systems which not only improve power characteristics and fuel efficiency but also help to significantly reduce emissions.

Engines using the new Lucas electronic unit injector

(EUI) already surpass stringent U.S. governmental emissions controls likely to be introduced in Europe in 1995.

Coupled with the development of the EPIC fuel injection system for both direct and indirect injection engines, Lucas equipment offers improved performance and lower emissions to a wide range of cars and commercial vehicles.

Lucas is already a world leader in fuel injection systems, its rotary pump having delivered 112 mpg in

breaking the world fuel economy record for production cars.

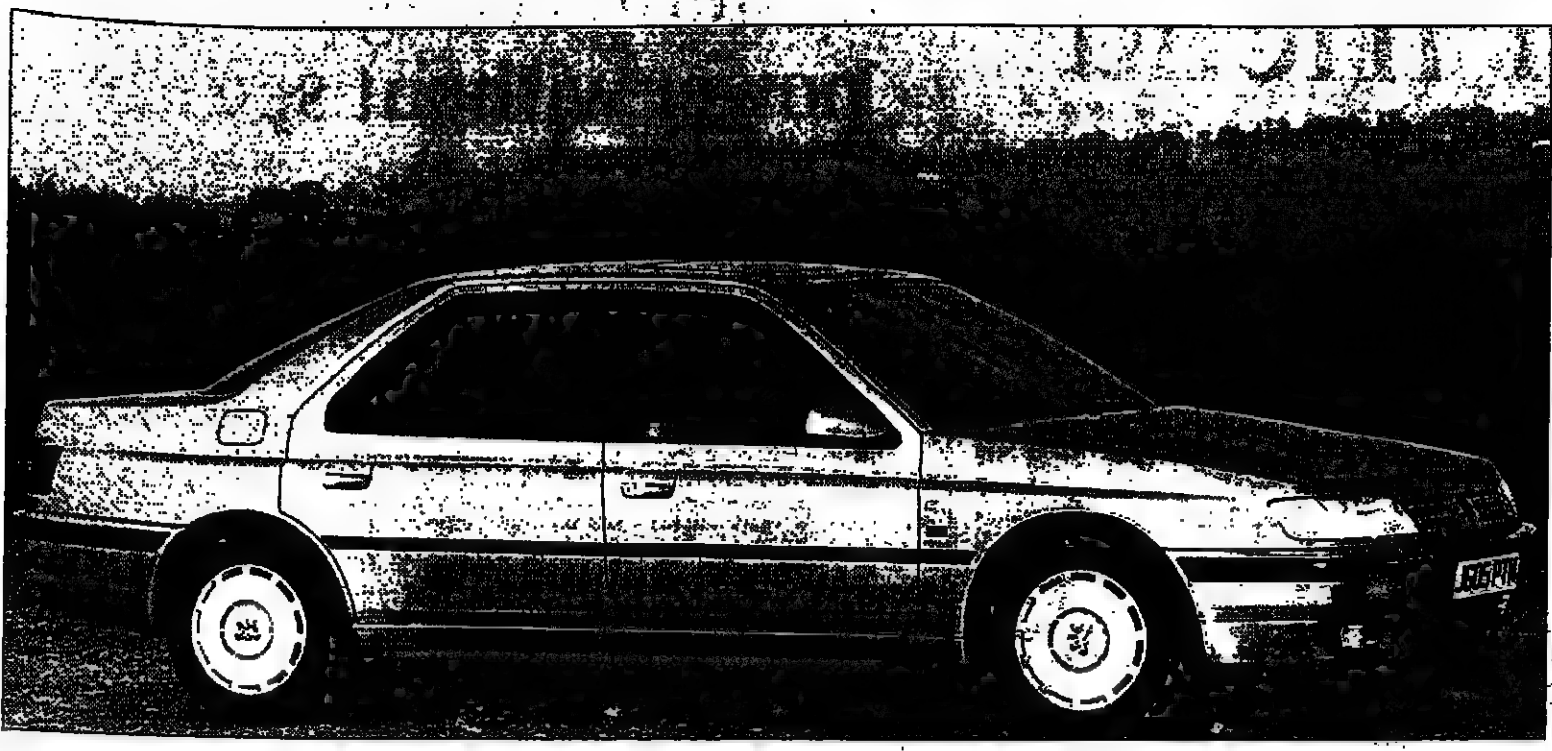
Diesel fuel injection systems form just one part of Lucas' overall programme of technology and innovation.

This advanced technology applies to petrol engines too. Lucas engine management and injection systems improve fuel economy and reduce exhaust emissions.

Lucas



Peugeot, with its smooth engines, sells one in three diesel cars in Britain, Eric Dymock reports



Leading the diesels: Peugeot, represented by the smart 605 SRi/SRdt, remains first in the field. Its cars are noted for economy and longevity

The lion roars ahead

One diesel car in three sold in Britain is a Peugeot. The 405 and the 205 between them take nearly a quarter of the market. The Peugeot 309 is fifth in the list of best-sellers, and all three increased their share in 1991 while their closest rivals, the Citroën BX and the Ford Escort fell.

Out of the 139,810 diesel cars sold last year, the fleet segment took 41,032, or nearly a third. One in ten of these were off-road four-wheel-drive vehicles. Rover, mainly with the Land-Rover Discovery and Range Rover diesels, was able to show growth and come third in the manufacturers' league table behind Peugeot and Ford. Citroën showed a slight decline and Vauxhall a more marked fall.

The popularity of the Peugeot, with its well-known lion symbol, lies largely in the smoothness and quietness of its engine, which, in the 405 in particular, rivals those of petrol counterparts. Diesel economy and longevity are self-evident, and resistance to theft stems mostly from the clattery noise and rough running.

Yet, perversely, some cars are improved with a diesel engine, and Citroën can expect to restore its position with new AX models and the splendid new ZX.

The stronger build and heavier weight of a diesel engine will also benefit the Metro diesel being announced next month. Like the AX it has a Peugeot-built 1.4-litre, four-cylinder, 52-horsepower engine, and it will do a similar 60mpg or more. One of the best-packaged superminis ever made, the Metro has outstanding handling and roadholding.

Unfortunately, it is likely to be expensive. The Citroën AX costs £7,587, so the cheapest Metro is likely to be more than £8,000. Rover will also increase its share with the 1.9-litre Peugeot engine in the 200 and 400 series cars.

Fiat has a couple of good diesels that come nowhere on the sales charts. The Tipo and Tempra 1.9 are among the quietest diesels, but hardly the best.

A pioneer of small, high-speed diesels, VW/Audi was sixth best-selling manufacturer in Britain last year, mainly with Golfs and Passats. Now Audi joins the fray, with the restyled 80 turbo diesel, and an Audi 100 with a high sixth gear.

Later this year BMW will join Rover, Audi, Volvo and Mercedes-Benz in the world of up-market diesels with a new range of extremely smooth-running oil engines. The pace of diesel development is quickening.

Price Max mpg 0-50mph mpg

Audi 80 1.9 TDI	£14,399	109	14.1	48.99
Audi 100 2.5 TDI	£21,911	121	11.1	46.30
Citroën AX 1.4 TDI	£5,842	98	13.8	65.10
Citroën ZX 1.7 TDI	£9,246	104	12.7	61.40
Citroën BX 1.7 TDI	£10,708	98	16.8	46.90
Citroën BX 1.7 TDI Turbo	£15,870	112	10.0	46.50
Citroën XM 2.1 TD	£17,875	119	10.8	44.80
Daihatsu Charade 1.0 CX TD	£5,050	87	16.7	61.90
Fiat Uno 1.7 400	£9,726	97	16.9	52.80
Fiat Tipo 1.7 TD	£11,062	108	12.0	46.10
Fiat Tempra 1.9 TDI	£15,198	111	12.1	52.30
Ford Fiesta 1.8 DLX	£8,875	94	14.3	55.57
Ford Escort 1.8 DLX	£11,135	94	17.5	54.58
Ford Orion 1.8 DLX	£11,256	94	18.0	54.58
Ford Sapphire 1.8 TD	£11,413	99	15.7	45.37
Ford Sierra 1.8 TD GLX	£13,788	99	15.7	45.37
Mercedes-Benz 190 2.5	£17,300	109	17.8	45.87
Mercedes-Benz 190 2.5	£20,350	108	15.1	41.88
Mercedes-Benz 2500	£22,470	109	16.5	41.47
Mercedes-Benz 3000	£25,270	118	13.7	40.50
Peugeot 205 1.8 XLD	£8,501	98	18.1	56.68
Peugeot 206 Turbo D	£9,961	100	12.2	46.06
Peugeot 306 1.8 GLD	£9,968	99	16.3	50.88
Peugeot 309 BRD Turbo	£11,591	108	19.0	48.90
Peugeot 405 1.8 GLD	£12,014	102	16.0	49.10
Peugeot 405 1.8 TDT	£16,867	111	12.8	47.80
Peugeot 405 2.1 SRDT	£19,475	119	11.8	44.78
Renault Clio 1.5 RN	£8,760	101	14.8	49.20
Renault 19 1.9DX Turbo	£11,759	114	11.3	47.50
Renault 21 1.9 GTD	£11,583	100	16.0	44.40
Rover Maestro LX	£10,202	93	18.0	52.80
Rover Montego 2.0 DSLX	£13,068	101	12.5	45.90
Rover 318SD	£11,212	96	16.0	51.10
Rover 418SD Turbo	£14,670	108	11.8	50.30
Rover 425D	£15,458	119	10.5	45.80
Seat Ibiza 1.7 GLX	£7,480	82	20.5	46.70
Seat Toledo 1.9D	£9,998	103	15.5	46.80
Toyota Corolla 1.8 TLE	£12,312	108	14.8	46.70
Vauxhall Astra 1.7 TD	£7,667	94	17.6	58.10
Vauxhall Astra 1.7 TD	£9,827	95	17.0	51.78
Vauxhall Cavalier 1.7 GL	£12,964	94	20.0	51.18
Vauxhall Cavalier 2.0i	£15,955	115	14.0	40.80
Volkswagen Golf 1.8 TD	£11,455	119	16.4	47.58
Volkswagen Passat 1.8GL	£14,598	108	15.0	50.58
VW Polo 2.4 TD	£20,190	115	11.5	38.70



Powerful challenger: the VW Golf CL Umwelt Turbo

Green, friendly and much more reliable

"DIRTY. Smelly. Noisy. Slow. Rarely have people had a good word to say about diesels." The opening words to a recent advertising campaign might seem to have been placed by anti-diesel activists. Vaughan Freeman writes.

In fact, they are part of Vauxhall's efforts to convince drivers to switch to the unloved diesel. The advertisement underlines the environmental advantages of driving a diesel which emits an estimated 70 per cent less harmful exhaust gases than a petrol engine.

Roger Macey, the chairman of the British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association, says that in the cash-oriented world of fleet and company cars for which every car bought — much still has to be done to convince bulk buyers that diesel is worth the investment.

"The fleet industry is driven by price," he says. "While it pays lip service to environmental considerations, price is the main driving factor."

Diesels may be cheaper to run, may use less fuel, which is cheaper than petrol, and may retain residual values that more than compensate for their higher initial purchase price, but they still account for only 10 per cent of the new cars sold in the UK.

If motorists are blind to the economic arguments, perhaps they can be swayed by the environmental issues. Self-interest, too, might work as diesels last longer and suffer fewer breakdowns. Doug Houston, the AA's chief engineer, whose own car is a diesel Peugeot, says: "Figures from Germany show that, model for model, diesels have 50 per cent fewer breakdowns than petrol cars. I would estimate that throughout the AA's 8888 of vehicles, which is 99.9 per cent diesel, the cost of breakdown repairs and maintenance is 20 per cent cheaper than if we ran a petrol fleet."

Figures from Volkswagen comparing its VW Golf to similar-sized petrol cars tell the tale. A comparison of exhaust gases show that for every kilometre the diesel puts out 189 grammes of carbon dioxide, while the petrol car puts out 243g; 0.5g per km of nitrous oxides (0.2g per km); 0.1g per km of hydrocarbons (0.3g per km); and 0.7g per km of carbon monoxide (2g per km).

The diesel's weak point is exhaust — it is seen as black smoke in badly tuned cars with 0.16g per km against petrol's 0.02g per km. Manufacturers, such as VW, are tackling this by fitting oxidation catalysts, which can be used to control the black smoke particles.

Arguments that diesels are much slower than petrol equivalents are also losing ground. This may have been true five years ago when diesel vehicles were aimed at the commercial sector, where delivery fleets needed neither the refinements nor performance demanded by private customers buying petrol cars.

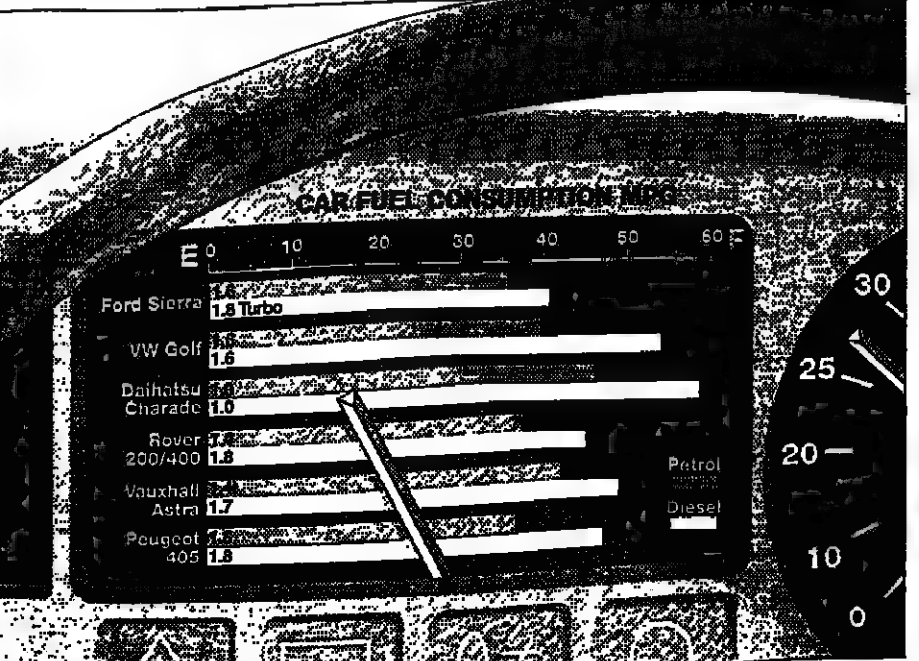
Today, specific comparisons of petrol cars and diesels provide performance. There is even a diesel-powered Westfield sports car with a 0-60 time of 6.6 seconds using a Ford Sierra 1.8-litre turbo diesel engine.

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Did the Kaiser kill Dr Diesel?

The Rover board sent one of its test drivers on a confidential mission in September 1913. Dudley Noble had to take a new 12 HP Rover car to Harwich and meet Dr Rudolf Diesel off the overnight ferry.

Mr Noble, who later became the head of Rover publicity and was a founding father of the Guild of Motor Writers in the 1950s, had photographs of Dr Diesel, a letter of introduction, and instructions to bring him to Coventry as he disembarked. Mr Noble waited at the Harwich customs shed in vain. Dr Diesel was presumed lost overboard.

Mystery still surrounds the fate of the man who lent his name to the only real challenger to the spark-ignition petrol engine that has ever had. In 1913 small, high-speed diesel engines for cars were still a long way off. Dr Diesel had not been first with engines that relied on the heat generated by compression to ignite the fuel.

In 1824 Nicholas Leonard Sadi Carnot — the son of a Napoleon's chief of staff, the mathematician Lazare Carnot — laid down its principles in the course of devising the mathematical foundation of thermodynamics.

In 1890, Herbert Ackroyd Stuart patented an oil-fired engine, which was produced by Richard Hornsby & Sons of Grantham, Lincolnshire. Yet in at least one respect Mr Ackroyd's engine was closer than Dr Diesel's 1892 patent to the modern compression ignition engine.

This injected fuel into the cylinders by means of a plunger pump. Dr Diesel relied instead on a high-pressure jet of air, a system whose shortcomings frustrated him for the rest of his life.

The most serious of his failures was his inability to manufacture an efficient fuel injection pump. Disheartened, he contemplated abandoning his rational principle and applying spark ignition. It was not until ten years after Dr Diesel's death that Robert Bosch developed a high-pressure

of developing his "rational heat engine". Dr Diesel tried ammonia gas, then coal, as fuel. There was still no industrial complex to import oil, the most popular fuel was coal gas, on which the early internal combustion engines of Otto and Lenoir relied.

Maybach effectively invented the carburettor only by applying a petrol-soaked rag to the intake of a gas engine. Diesel's experiments with liquefied coal were encouraged by Krupp as a means of by-passing the gasworks.

Dr Diesel's engine was capable of burning oil more or less as it came out of the well. Maybach's petrol engine had to use refined spirit. Dr Diesel's conviction that the best way to ignite the mixture was by compressing it was sound, and although he never really solved the problem of getting the fuel in properly, he improved the engine's efficiency enough to make it a working proposition.

Dr Diesel's pioneering work ensured that it was his name, and not Ackroyd Stuart's or even Carnot's, that was enshrined in automotive history. By 1897 he was able to dispose of the American rights to his engine, to the German-American brewer Adolphus Busch for a million marks (\$250,000). Busch was slow to make much of his investment, although one engine was built by the St Louis Iron & Marine works, and in 1898 was installed in the Anheuser Busch Brewery, in St Louis.

Fuel injection on large diesel engines did not present the same problems of miniaturisation, and it was soon apparent that besides power generation on land, there were useful applications for diesel engines at sea, particularly in submarines.

Electric motors were the only practical power for a submarine submerged. Anything else produced heat, fumes and exhaust gas. Petrol engines charged up the batteries and propelled the vessel on the surface and by 1905 a U-boat could do 20 knots, or nine knots underwater. How-



Pioneer: Dr Rudolf Diesel, who met his end in 1913

ever, in February 1906 one of the German fleet was destroyed by fire when refuelling. Diesel was the answer. The fuel had a lower flashpoint than petrol, less was lost through evaporation, it was more economical, and the submarine had a longer range. By the time U19 was laid down in 1911, it was equipped with two strong diesels.

In 1906 the French navy commissioned the diesel-engined underwater craft *Opale* and *Emeraude*, in 1907 the Russians completed the first diesel-engined oil tanker, and in May 1908 Britain's first diesel submarine, the D.1, was launched at Barrow-in-Furness. Soon the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, set off in a diesel submarine from Portsmouth.

Dr Diesel's engine was ac-

cordingly of great strategic importance. It is possible that the Kaiser's government was less than happy at the prospect that he would be sharing secrets with the British Admiralty. It is equally possible that Dr Diesel's disappearance at sea could have had something to do with the Krupp shipyard's newly found interest in exporting U-boat technology. With Dr Diesel on the loose, Churchill might get the help he needed more or less free.

We shall never know whether it was cloak-and-dagger work by the Kaiser's secret service, industrial espionage on a grand scale, a depressive mood following another failure of his fuel injectors, or merely the heaving deck of a packet-boat that deprived the world of Rudolf Diesel.

ERIC DYMOCK

Many more miles for the cheaper gallon

Across the forecourts of Europe the costs of diesel, unleaded and four-star fuels vary wildly, but Europe is united on one point: diesel is invariably the cheapest fuel. However, for the British diesel motorist, excise duties and VAT make their favourite fuel almost always more expensive than in mainland Europe.

Manufacturers say this is why diesel takes such a small slice of the new car market. That share has, however, increased during the past 11 years. In 1981 0.66 per cent of the new cars sold in the UK were diesels. In March, diesels accounted for 10 per cent of all new cars sold. However, diesels hold 30 per cent share of the market in France.

The increased interest in diesel cars within the company-car and fleet sector has accounted for this surge in diesel sales. Research shows diesel is on average 25-30 per cent more economical than petrol and up to 300 per cent more economical over journeys less than two miles. The consumption for diesels is also frugal over longer distances.

Comparisons of like with like are difficult because to obtain the same power output, the diesel engine needs to be slightly larger than its petrol equivalent. Despite that, figures from the AA are a revelation. A Ford Sierra with

Diesel costs less than petrol in Europe but UK excise duties cut the savings

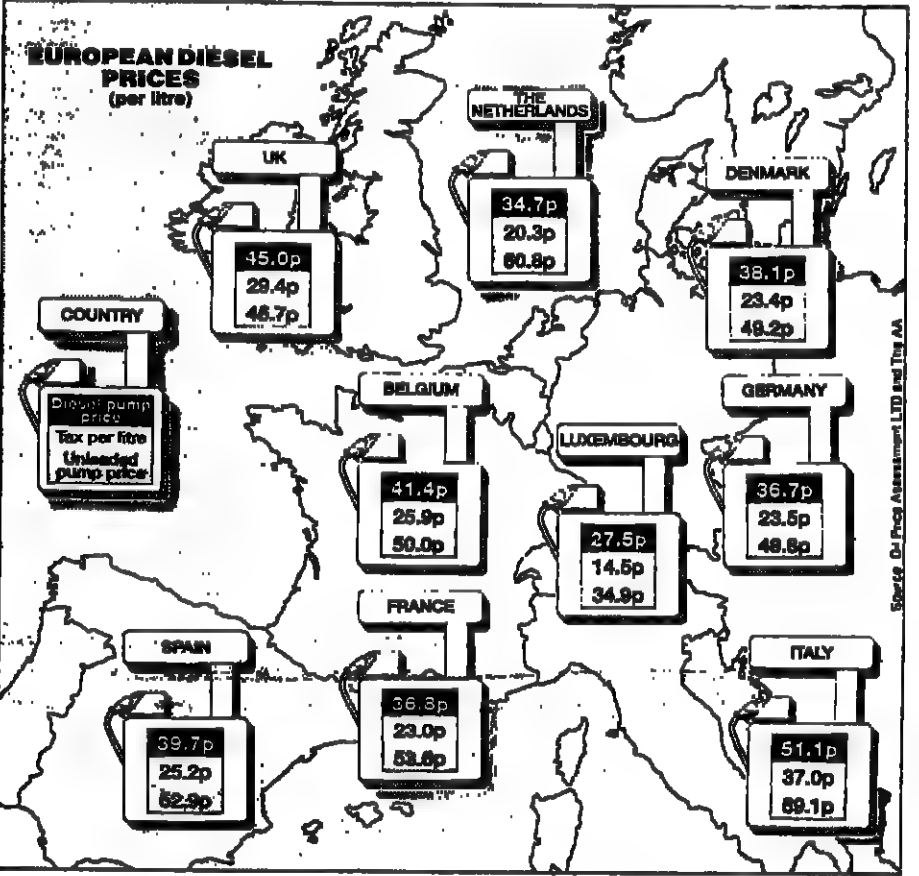
ing road tax, fuel, repairs and maintenance are included. Cover 20,000 miles in a petrol-driven, two-litre car and the cost rises to 34.6p per mile, about £1,800 more.

Diesel vehicles also return better economy figures over a lifetime's use because they are more robust and less costly to maintain. Because of this they are generally in better condition when it comes to reselling. Diesel cars retain a better second-hand value.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders has published a leaflet on diesel entitled *Diesel Lean and Green*, which is a robust defence of the diesel engine. "Diesel-engine cars are inherently fuel-efficient, consuming on average 20-30 per cent less fuel than a petrol equivalent," it says. "They are especially economical and less polluting in short, stop-start urban journeys. A modern, turbocharged diesel engine offers performance similar to a petrol engine and they are durable and reliable."

The hope now is that the Inland Revenue overhaul of company-car tax bands announced in the Budget and due to be completed this summer will give private and company-car users the cash incentives to convince them of diesel's economic benefits.

VAUGHAN FREEMAN



An all-weather friend

A diesel engine proves its worth in a mountain stream, reports Eric Dymock

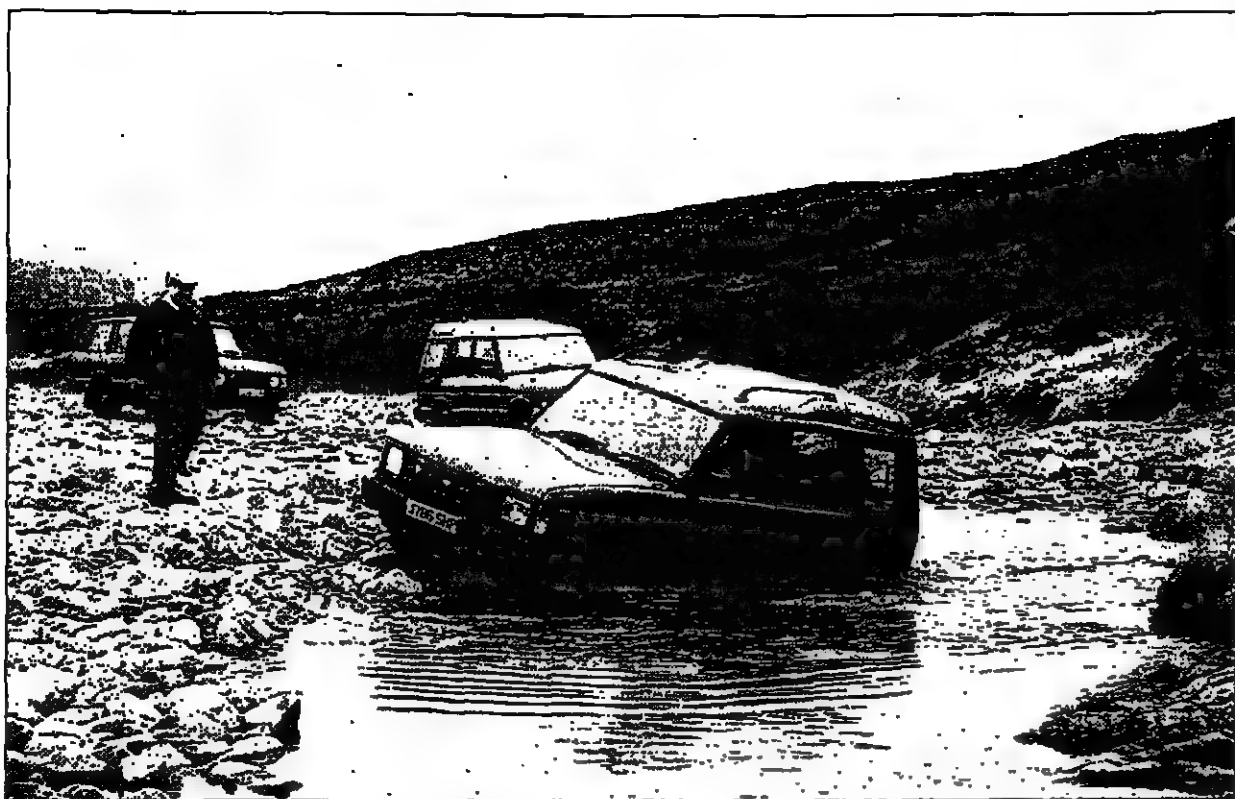
Making its way down a hillside, on a slope the best part of 1 in 1, the Land-Rover Discovery Tdi was as sure-footed as a mountain goat.

Roger Crathorne, Land Rover's presentations and demonstrations manager, forbade braking: "If you lock the wheels you could slither all the way down. You could tilt sideways, and it would be anybody's guess whether you would be right way up when you got to the bottom."

As usual, Mr Land Rover was right. With the high compression of the diesel engine acting as a brake on all four wheels, the tyres gripped the treacherously slippery wheel-tracks carved out in the Duke of Atholl's heather. In first gear and with low ratio and the diff locks engaged, the Discovery remained completely under control.

This was a demonstration journey. Behind us, as we negotiated riverbeds and climbed through impossible-looking rocky scree, was a team with winches, ropes, bridging equipment and ground anchors — just in case.

A day's rain could have made all the difference to the course Mr Crathorne had mapped out to demonstrate that the Land-Rover remains the benchmark for off-road driving. We had another vindication of the diesel engine in a mountain stream. One Discovery was scrambling over wet boulders with ease, but in deep water, the driver's nerve gave out. The waves lapped round the doors, and given too little throttle, the engine stalled. For a moment it looked like a tow-out job but, after no more than a few shouted instructions from the bank, the engine was restarted, the exhaust bubbled from well under the surface of the



In the wet: underwater on the Duke of Atholl's estate, the Land-Rover Tdi's diesel engine restarted first time

water, and the vehicle clambered out, gurgling and steaming, but unaided.

There were petrol Range Rovers in the party as well, but there is reassuringly less danger of a diesel drowning through a flood. Now Land Rover has acknowledged the demand for a basic diesel Discovery, by launching a new range aimed primarily at business motorists.

The new Discovery Tdi three-door is £17,327, and the five-door at £19,249 is just under the tax break. The new models were prompted by the cut in special car tax, enabling Land Rover to pitch the five-door model below the vital ceiling price.

"Business motorists", in Land Rover-speak, include anybody who needs a dual-purpose car with the comfort and facilities of a regular saloon, combined with the ability to negotiate rough terrain.

Engineers, surveyors, foresters and others involved in agriculture are obvious targets, but so are those who need all-terrain mobility in the new leisure and tourism industries.

The size of the business four-wheel-drive diesel market is substantial, 15,415 vehicles in 1991, up from 12,845 in 1990. The main manufacturer is Rover with Range Rover and Discovery accounting for 7,983 sales in 1991. Discovery petrol and diesel production is running at near-record levels of 500 per week, of which more than 70 per cent goes for export.

The Isuzu Trooper is the Rover's closest diesel rival with 2,695 sales, followed by the Mitsubishi Shogun at 2,269, and the Daihatsu Fourtrak at 1,165. Sales of most other four-wheel-drive off-landers are mostly for petrol variants.

Pertshire had dry weather for Mr Crathorne's expedition. Only an occasional tow was needed to ease vehicles through the rich peaty bogs typical of the Scottish mountains. Mr Crathorne is a Land-Rover devotee, covering 10,000 miles off-road every year. He is restoring a classic early model, one of the first Land-Rovers, an 80in wheel-base model made in 1949.

"When driving off-road it is important that a number of rules and well-proven techniques and skills are followed," he says. "Speed is to be avoided for two reasons. It is dangerous and unnecessary, and there is also a risk that the countryside will be damaged. Braking should be used only to bring a vehicle to a halt — going downhill and slowing down are taken care of by the low-range gears and engine retardation."

Drivers who want to learn Mr Crathorne's techniques no longer need to travel to Perthshire. Land Rover recently opened a driving experience facility where the skills can be learnt without risk of damage to the countryside. Within the confines of the factory grounds, near Solihull, West Midlands, lie four and a half miles of tracks and obstacles, including the Land Rover jungle track, which present a driving challenge.

Land Rover invested £250,000 in a 4,700 sq ft building with a display area large enough for three vehicles, and a 60-seater conference room. For a fee of £110,

customers can have a day of tuition from a five-man team with a total of 100 years and a million miles of off-road experience. Police forces, the military and company fleet customers can use the facility to teach drivers techniques including towing or winching vehicles from seemingly inextricable situations.

Marooned once, on a trackless waste in winter with darkness approaching and no other vehicle or tree to which to hitch a winch rope, Mr Crathorne resorted to burying the spare wheel. Deeply dug-in, it provided an anchorage for a winch-rope, which eased the wheels of a bottomed-down vehicle free.

John Carter, the driving experience manager, organises courses for special needs such as driving through sand or ice. The jungle track offers most obstacles including deep rutted muddy tracks with stretches under more than two feet of natural water. A mixture of inclines and side tilts of up to 47 degrees, a flight of steps, and severe hard and soft ruts provide the material for a stimulating experience.

Mysterious engine gives power without sparks

No wires, no battery, no sparkplugs — so how does a diesel engine work?

To the average motorist, the great mystery of a diesel engine is how it works without sparkplugs. The basic principle relies on the fact that anything squeezed hard enough, warms up. A bicycle pump warms up as it works to force air into a tyre, because the air in it is being compressed and so heated before it enters the tyre.

Dr Cathryn Hickey, at Shell UK, explains the difference between a compression engine (diesel) and a spark engine (petrol):

"With a petrol engine, you put both air and fuel into the engine cylinder. This is compressed by the piston until a high pressure is reached and a spark is released from the sparkplug to ignite the mixture. The exploding mixture expands the air in the cylinder, which forces the piston back down, turning the crankshaft and so generating drive power."

"The difference with a diesel is that only air goes into the cylinder initially. The air is compressed to a very high pressure, much higher than the pressure in a petrol engine."

"When the air has been compressed and reaches a very high temperature, diesel fuel is sprayed into the cylinder in a fine spray and ignites sponta-

neously, providing the power."

The first diesel engines and most commercial vehicle diesels use direct injection (DI), the most efficient, where the fuel is sprayed directly into the main cylinder. Most diesel cars use indirect injection (IDI), where fuel is injected first into a small pre-chamber linked to the main cylinder. Combustion begins here and the explosive mixture is then shot into the main cylinder through a narrow inlet. This loses some efficiency as the initial compressed "charge" passes into the main cylinder, but speeds up combustion, letting the engine run faster.

A diesel engine is tuned to ensure there is always enough air (usually an excess of about 20 per cent) to burn all the fuel injected into it. Without this excess air, which limits power, some diesel fuel may remain unburned and be expelled as black, sooty exhaust.

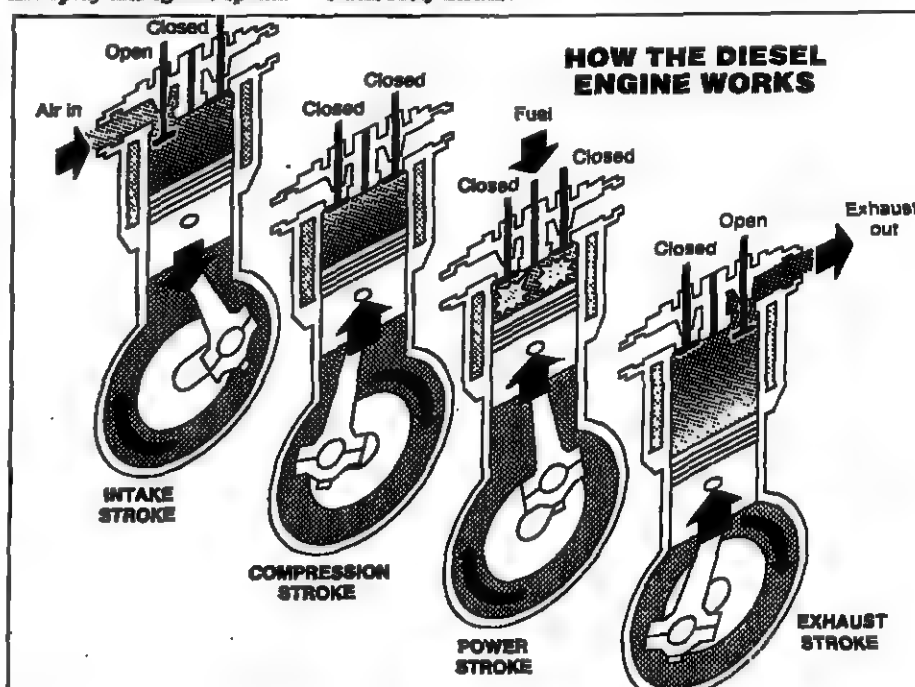
Although it may sound complex, the principles of the diesel engine are simple and account for its reliability. For example, a petrol engine's power is regulated by the throttle which controls the amount of air and fuel entering the engine. With a diesel, every cylinder begins its cycle full of air so there is no throttle controlling air intake. Power is controlled by regulating the amount of diesel sprayed into the air-filled cylinder.

This means that the diesel is always operating with the cylinders at their most efficient. This happens in a petrol engine only when you are going flat out and the maximum amount of air is entering the cylinders. This is why MPG figures for diesel and petrol cars approach each other only at higher speeds.

The fuel mixture is hotter in a diesel engine and is therefore burnt more efficiently. Due to the higher pressures, certain parts such as crankshafts are made stronger and so are less prone to failure.

Most motoring breakdowns are due to simple electrical faults such as electronics affected by cold or rain. A diesel engine is virtually waterproof because there are no plugs or wires.

VAUGHAN FREEMAN



If you want to breathe a little easier, see a Specialist.

Diesel Diagnostic Centre

Do you drink too much fuel? Do you have a problem getting going in the morning? Do you have a bad cough?

These are questions you should be addressing to your diesel car. If the answer is yes to any of the above, see a specialist. Or to be more precise, a Lucas Diesel Diagnostic Centre.

As the name suggests, we're the first ever national network of service centres that's dedicated purely to the good health of your diesel car or van.

Our comprehensive Diesel Diagnostic Check will ensure that your diesel is running at optimum performance and economy.

So if you want to save the health of your diesel — and in doing so, help the environment — book yourself in with a specialist today.

Phone 0908 249113* now and we'll put you in touch with a Lucas Diesel Diagnostic Centre in your area.

Then, like your vehicle, you can look forward to breathing a little easier.

*Wednesday to Thursday 9am-5pm and Friday 9am-4pm.

Lucas

LUCAS AFTERMARKET OPERATIONS, DIESEL SYSTEMS, THAME ROAD, HADDENHAM, AYLESBURY, BEDS HP17 8JB.

No smoke without ire



Clean machine: trucks belching black smoke are rare now, but today's lorries face increasingly tough regulations

Diesel engines in lorries, buses and coaches are cleaner and more efficient than ever before. Trucks struggling up motorway gradients pushing out black smoke as they were 20 years ago are more the exception than the rule.

Engine development has moved on, pushed by the growth in the motorway network and the resulting demand for improved power, economy and reliability.

Power from a given engine size has nearly doubled in some cases, while the fuel used to produce horsepower has fallen by almost a fifth, and experts in the industry are predicting emission-free diesel engines within ten years.

Today's lorries are bigger and faster and can carry more than yesterday's 32-tonners, but they use no more fuel. Despite this, environmentalists worldwide have been stepping up pressure to reduce pollution from vehicles still further, for health reasons and to reduce global warming.

Engines produce large amounts of carbon monoxide (CO), which, when it mixes with air, produces carbon dioxide. Plant life survives on this gas, which is also needed to ensure that the Earth's surface is kept at the right temperature. Too little and the temperature falls: too much

Despite cleaner motoring, the clamour for regulation increases

and the temperature rises, causing global warming.

This has led to calls for tighter control on vehicle exhaust emissions, particularly from lorries and buses — even though only 16 per cent of the carbon dioxide produced in Britain comes from road transport, according to a study by the lorry manufacturer Iveco Ford. Of this, a mere 3 per cent is from lorries.

The United States was the first country to regulate exhaust emissions, in the mid 1960s, first in California and then nationally. Europe did not start debating it in earnest until the late 1970s and it was well into the 1980s before legislation in the form of a European Community directive was enacted.

New lorries, buses and coaches had to meet exhaust emission limits set in EC directive 88/77 from October 1, 1990. Limits were set for nitrogen oxides (Nox), hydrocarbons (HC) and carbon monoxide (CO). Both Nox and HC are harmful pollutants that produce acids and can also cause respiratory difficulties.

More stringent limits have also been agreed by the EC for

the future. They are to be introduced in two stages, the first towards the end of 1993 and the second in 1995.

Stage one brings a drastic reduction in the levels, by about 44 per cent for Nox and about 60 per cent for HC and CO, and a limit for "particulates" has been set as well. Particulates contain about 50 per cent soot and 25 per cent sulphur, which combines with water to make sulphuric acid. Stage two brings further reductions, with particulate levels cut by nearly 60 per cent. A third stage, being discussed now, could bring Nox and particulate levels down even further.

Most engine manufacturers supplying the European market can meet stage one with existing engines. These in most cases will be turbocharged, although more for power and economy reasons than purely for meeting the legislation. A turbocharger pumps more air into the engine by compressing it, using some of the waste energy generated in the exhaust.

This can be further increased by cooling the compressed air before it enters the engine, a method that can also

reduce Nox levels and play an important part in reducing emissions to meet stage two.

Cleaner diesel fuel, with a much lower sulphur content, will also be needed to meet the stage two requirements and for particulates.

Manufacturers will be able to get their engines certified on low-sulphur fuel, although supplies are expected to be limited when stage two comes into effect. However, the EC is pressing for low-sulphur fuel to be universally available in Europe by the late 1990s.

Large truck manufacturers, such as Volvo, Scania and MAN, are also spending large sums developing alternative fuel engines. Electronics too will play an increasing role in controlling emissions, particularly as requirements become even more stringent.

As well as exhaust emissions being reduced, at source, the total being injected into the atmosphere can be reduced in other ways. The transport department believes millions of gallons of fuel will be saved annually by fitting speed limiters on lorries. Work sponsored by the energy department has suggested savings of up to 20 per cent, and proper driver training has been proved to give transport companies significant fuel savings.

JOHN PHILLIPS

مکذا سم لکھل

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 29 1992

DIESEL 27

For every three diesels sold, one is a Peugeot.



Peugeot sell more diesel cars than any other manufacturer. One in three, to be precise. And what's even more surprising is that for every ten people who test drive a Peugeot diesel, seven go on to buy one. So what makes them so popular?

Peugeot diesels offer outstanding levels of refinement and performance. In fact, when you sit behind the wheel of a Peugeot diesel it's surprisingly similar to a

petrol model. Needless to say, diesel is very economical and it's kinder to mother nature. So you can help to preserve the environment as well as your finances.

Once you know the facts, changing to diesel is the obvious choice. So why not call the number opposite for a diesel fact pack, containing comprehensive details about Peugeot diesels. Alternatively, call into your nearest Peugeot dealership where the experienced team will be

able to answer all your questions about Peugeot diesels and arrange a test drive.

PHONE FOR A PEUGEOT DIESEL FACT PACK
0800 800 410 QUOTING REF. NO. TI52

Last year one out of every three diesels sold was a Peugeot diesel. Which could leave two out of three drivers feeling a little sour.



PEUGEOT DIESELS
FUEL FOR THOUGHT

David Powell, athletics correspondent, on the first woman to lead Britain's team management

Allison sees changes down the track

BRITAIN had just won a record nine gold medals at the European athletics championships and the party was in full swing. But Joan Allison did not like what she saw: a dance floor full of men.

"The British women are being pushed under the carpet because they are an embarrassment," Allison, the women's team manager, said as the champagne flowed. Reporters scribbled; and Allison's male colleagues looked flushed with surprise. A more benign person in sports management than Allison you could not wish to meet, which made the source of the outburst as unexpected as the timing. Allison was the team manager of one gold medal winner, while the men had eight. "The same opportunities are not there for the women," she said, her concern brought to a head by her discovery that the following season's two televised meetings were to be for men only.

"I realised that, by going on record and making such a statement, I could get my knuckles rapped or lose my job," Allison says now. "But I was fed up with people asking me why the women were not as good as the men and this was a prime example." All Allison got was "an official telling off" — and the job of men's team manager for the Olympic Games and World Cup. She has not swapped sides. She will manage the women's team as well. The death of Les Jones in March created the men's vacancy. Now, for the first time, Britain's management team will be led by a woman. Allison has been put in charge of both camps, with John Jeffrey, Jones's deputy, as one of her assistants.

The Managersess is not Gabriella Benson, not just because her job is unpaid. "It is not the same as a team game, where you have 11 footballers playing together," Allison said. "It is difficult to define the team manager's role in athletics. If you are a physiotherapist with the team you know exactly what your job is, if you are a coach you know exactly what your job is, but the team manager is everything and anything." Everything from protest



Mother confessor: Joan Allison, 'definitely more a counsellor than a manager' to Britain's athletes

leader, when the rules appear to have been broken by the opposition, to the one who accompanies international athletes on their femininity tests.

Anything from deciding who shares rooms with whom at championships, to listening to personal problems and trying to help solve them.

More a counsellor than a team manager? "Definitely," Allison said. "But there are going to be one or two changes."

She is going to move closer to the sharp end. "In the past, the managers have had to do reporting duties with the athletes so, on a busy day, you could be checking everyone into the call room and never see how the athletes perform," Allison said. "We ought to see what is going on out on the track."

Allison, aged 44, has been on the management team for eight years, the length of time she spent as an international middle-distance runner. She

won two Commonwealth silver medals at 1,500 metres and competed twice at the Olympics. On none of these occasions did she fulfil herself.

"In the 1970 Commonwealth Games I thought I was going to get the gold but I was overtaken just before the finish line." An Achilles tendon injury impaired her attempt four years later.

In the 1968 Olympics she was eliminated in her heat. "Total disaster. Inexperience.

It was a slow heat and everybody sprinted with 100 metres to go."

She vowed not to get caught out again in 1972 Olympics. So she went off with the fast-starting leader, not imagining for one moment that she would be on world record schedule.

"Bragins broke the world record in every round: heats, semi-final and final. I blew up and went out in the heat again. Couldn't believe it. That was really hard to take."

Allison's experiences give her an empathy with her athletes. "The men open up very well to me as well," she said. "The thing I learned most from Les was to keep calm. I loved his laid-back approach."

But not so laid-back as to be walked over: the British women, thanks to Allison, are back on television.

A South African's dreams. Life and Times, page 4

Bring on the Baker boys

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

WEMBLEY beckons and, with it, the possibility of an unusual and unprecedented sibling confrontation in the Carlsberg national championship basketball play-offs.

If the semi-finals on Saturday favour the underdogs, London Towers and Worthing Bears, Stedroy and Ronnie Baker will be on opposite sides in the final on Sunday.

Kingston and Thames Valley Tigers, the favourites, might have something to say about that but, after a season in which the leading clubs have all beaten one another, far stranger things have happened. "We're very excited at the possibility," Stedroy said yesterday. "We need both our teams to be in the final to show what we can do."

The fabulous Baker boys, aged 22, represent two-thirds of the Baker triplets: but Bernadette, their sister, prefers badminton.

Stedroy and Ronnie are lively play-makers who have never permitted their lack of height, 5ft 8in and 5ft 9in respectively, to be a handicap.

Far from it. They possess handling skills that are the envy of many a bigger man. "May be it's been an advantage being small," Stedroy said. "It means that all the big guys have had difficulty keeping up with us."

At Clissold Park School in Hackney, the boys exploited their identical looks after they had been split into separate classes because they talked too much.

"If, for instance, Ronnie didn't want to do a maths lesson, then I'd do it for him, and vice versa," Stedroy said.

It was their similar basketball talents — initially recognised and then developed by Jack Singer, their physical education teacher at school, and later har-

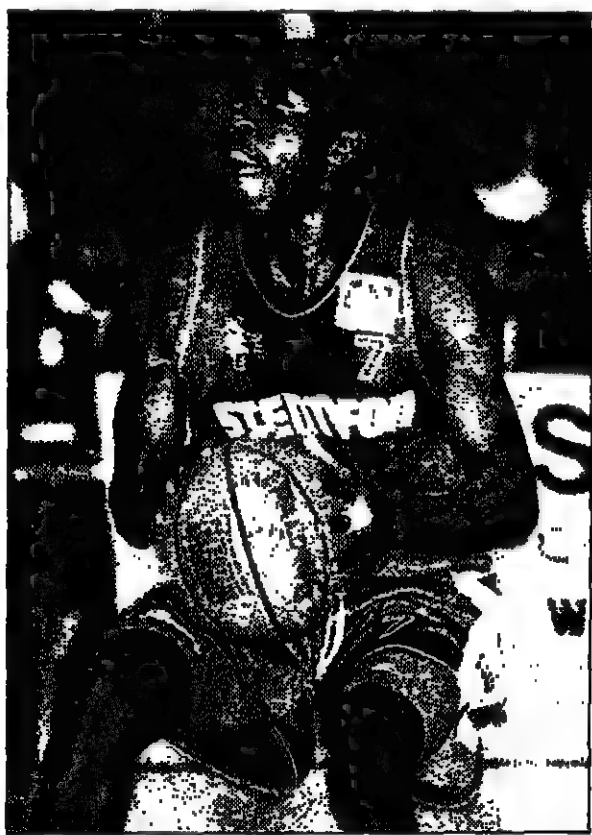
nessed at Brixton, under Jimmy Rogers — that was soon covered by many.

From Brixton, the second division club, Stedroy went to Thames Valley Tigers and then, this season, to the reformed London Towers. Ronnie has spent the last two years at Worthing.

It is hardly surprising that mutual respect prevents either of them from saying who is better.

Ronnie, the flamboyant one, kept his England place when Kevin Cadle took over as national coach this season but the staid Stedroy has been on the winning side in nine of the last ten encounters between their clubs.

They like to watch each other play but prefer the ultimate challenge of battling for supremacy in the middle of the same court. "It makes us play that much better when we face each other," Stedroy said.



Ball control: Ronnie Baker eyes an opportunity

CYCLING

Dighton is forced to miss trial

GARY Dighton, the national 25-miles record holder, yesterday withdrew from the British team-trial squad to compete in the Nation's Cup near Rome on Sunday (Peter Bryan writes).

The Italian national event, over a 64km motorway course, is one of two key selection tests for the British Olympic squad.

Dighton, suffering from a severe chest infection and recovering from the effects of concussion after an accident at Easter, was last night assured that his absence on Sunday will not prejudice his Olympic chances.

Stuart Shand replaces Dighton and will join Peter Longbottom, Steve Farrell and Matthew Illingworth. The final Olympic trial will be the British Cycling Federation's team championship on June 14.

RACING

Cardoun tunes up for classic examination

BY MICHAEL SEELY

IN anticipation of good ground at Newmarket on Saturday, Cardoun was well backed for the 2,000 Guineas.

The price of the French colt, in whom Daniel Wildenstein bought a half share last week, was cut from 10-1 to 8-1 with Ladbrokes.

Yesterday, the Elie Lellouche-trained Cardoun, who gave Terdon 5lb and a three-quarters of a length beating in heavy ground at Maisons-Laffitte last autumn, completed his Newmarket preparation on the Reservoir gallop at Chantilly.

Cardoun was galloped the reverse way round the work grounds, so that he could go two furlongs downhill, thereby simulating the run down into the dip on the Rowley mile that the three-year-old will be encountering for the first time on Saturday.

Reporting on the conditions at Newmarket, Nick Lees, the clerk of the course, said: "We've put half-an-inch of rain on the Rowley mile in the last three days. We've also had eight centimetres of rain and I've changed the going forecast to good. At present it's loose on top, as it hasn't had time to settle down after the rain."

Both Robert Sangster's big-race candidates, Rodrigo De Triano and Muscicle, who have had setbacks in their preparations for the 2,000 and 1,000 Guineas respectively, were reported to be still on course for their objectives by their trainers.

"Rodrigo has only had a minor infection," said Peter

Chapple-Hyam. "He cantered this morning and was fine. He will be cantered again tomorrow and given a pipe-opener on Thursday."

Muscicle, who sustained an injury to one of her hooves over the weekend, cantered twice up Warren Hill with Michael Roberts, her big-race jockey, in the saddle.

"So far, so good," commented Henry Cecil. "Everything appears to be going according to plan."

Other 1,000 Guineas candidates in action on the Heath were Marling and A-To-Z.

Both fillies worked on the Limeskilns. Marling, last season's unbeaten two-year-old, was partnered by Steve Cauthen, who is now certain to be on board on Thursday.

"She went really well and Steve was delighted by her," said David Loder. Geoffrey Wragg's assistant trainer, at Nottingham after Richard Hills had ridden Simmering to a head defeat of Kensworth Lady in the Old Trafford Stakes.

An expensive failure on her debut at Newmarket, yesterday's 5-1 winner is owned in partnership by Peter Player, Patricia Wragg, John Gamsey and our racing correspondent, Richard Evans.

Cecil's magnificent form continues when the nine-times champion trainer landed a double with Belgran and Garah. Willie Ryan rode Belgran to a hard-fought win in the Oval Stakes, but Cauthen had an easy ride on the impressive Garah in the Headingley Stakes.

Shaikh outlines hopes for Arazi

FROM RICHARD EVANS IN KENTUCKY

SHAIKH Mohammed has spoken for the first time about the ultimate dream of seeing Arazi win the Kentucky Derby and the Epsom Derby rather than the US Triple Crown.

His remarks, following on from those of Arazi's trainer, Francois Boutin, and European jockey, Steve Cauthen, reflect the differences that exist with Allen Paulson, the other owner of the horse.

Shaikh Mohammed, who paid Paulson \$9 million for 50 per cent of Arazi last year, outlined his hopes for the horse's future racing plans.

"I think owners dream that their horse can win big races. I think any owner would be happy and dream of owning a horse that would win the Triple Crown."

"But it is an even better dream to win the most valuable races for three-year-olds, like the Kentucky Derby and the Epsom Derby also because it has not been done before, and we love a challenge."

Arazi flew here on Sunday in preparation for the Kentucky Derby on Saturday. A decision on where the world's top horse will run in future is likely to be announced within an hour of the race, assuming the odds-on favourite wins. Paulson wants Arazi to try to become the first horse since

Affirmed in 1978 to win America's coveted Triple Crown.

Shaikh Mohammed and Paulson are understood to have corresponded over the matter and the European, camp remains hopeful that Arazi will appear at Epsom on June 3.

Explaining his decision to buy a half-share in the horse, Shaikh Mohammed said: "I saw the horse and I loved him."

He believes it was a good investment and added that Arazi is worth more now than when the deal was completed before last year's Breeders' Cup.

Yesterday, Arazi reappeared on the track where he set the racing world alight with his Breeders' Cup Juvenile victory last autumn.

Ridden by his lad, Raymond Lamomaca, and accompanied by his lead horse, Aliko, Arazi cantered round a circuit of the dirt track.

Doctor Devious and Thyer, respectively the English and Irish hopes, worked six furlongs sharply together.

The Kentucky Derby will be broadcast live by Radio 5 on Saturday in an extended 10pm sports bulletin. The coverage will include an American commentary on the race which is due off at 10.32.

NETBALL

Aquila look to recover final touch

AQUILA, from Kent, and Toucans, of Middlesex, will contest the final of the national clubs competition in Stretford, Manchester, on Saturday (Louise Taylor writes). Last weekend Aquila defeated New Cambell, of Essex, 50-40, while in the other semi-final, Toucans beat BICC, from Cheshire, 38-30.

Five-time winners of the competition in the 1970s, Aquila have Sally Young, of England, at goal defence, Toucans, who have never appeared in a final, include Jesslyn Parkes, the former England goalkeeper, and Lucia Sdao, the England centre.

At the national youth tournament at Anerley, south London, last weekend, the winners in the under-21 section were Wyvern, from Bedfordshire, who beat Linden, from Birmingham, 15-9, despite having only seven players and no substitutes.

OTHER RESULTS: Under-18: Tunford (Herts) bt Spewell (Gloucestershire), 17-8. Under-16: Sundale (Sunderland) bt Essex, 12-6.

ICE HOCKEY

Discipline on and off ice tarnishes season

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

THE season, which finished last weekend, was again dominated by Durham Wasps. Although they did not emulate their achievement of a year ago by winning all three titles, they did retain their Heineken League premier division and championship titles. They might have won the Autumn Cup as well, had it not been for a suspension of Mike O'Connor, their captain.

This was one of several controversial disciplinary decisions. Murraysfield Racers had a running battle with the British Ice Hockey Association over the eligibility of their so-called "category B imports", and Telford Tigers will never be convinced that they should have been fined and had points deducted for icing an ineligible player. For a similar offence, Chelmsford Chieftans were only fined and Sheffield Steelers might well find similar leniency being afforded to them, which will allow them to be promoted to

the first division of the Heineken League.

Capacity crowds of 8,300 were attracted to the wonderful Sheffield Arena in Sheffield's first season of operation. It must be hoped that this will encourage others to build arenas of similar capacity.

On-ice discipline continues to be a problem, and the unfortunate incident at Bracknell which saw Leo Koopmans, the Murraysfield Racers coach, and one of their players, Roger Hunt, suspended for life was a blot on the season. Hunt has since been charged with assault.

Officiating continues to lag behind the improvement in playing standards. In its three days, the Wembley weekend encapsulated the problem. The first semi-final and the final were well refereed but the second semi-final suffered from poor officiating, and this inconsistency must be eliminated.

Hurlingham lists at record high

SPECTATORS at British polo clubs expecting a reduction in activity this summer because of the recession are in for a surprise.

The lists kept by the Hurlingham Association — the sport's ruling body — show an all-time high of 1,300 players based on a record 30 clubs, not to mention three more probationary clubs in the pipeline.

Many enthusiasts start in the Pony Club; more than half the game's high echelon received their apprenticeship in that sphere. Twelve schools are also beginning to feed hopefuls on to the handicap lists.

The army, which provided the majority of the British experts in pre-war days, remains another useful source of talent, even though cavalry officers are worked harder now. Of 183 members of the Combined Services Polo Association, 140 are from the army.

Cowdroy Park, Cirencester Park and Guards — the three leading clubs — have started their programmes this season and spectators eagerly await the high-goal tournaments, which begin with the Prince of Wales Trophy, at the Royal Berkshire club,

John Watson finds the sport of polo thriving despite the recession

and the Queen's Cup, at Guards, during the second half of May. Seventeen four-somes have thrown down the gauntlet for the British Open championships.

There will be speculation among aficionados regarding the inclusion of the Prince of Wales in the Transmontana line-up, put together by Anthony Embiricos, which has won the Gold Cup, the blue ribbon of British polo, for five of the last six summers.

It would be a great boost for the game if the Prince of Wales were in the champion team this year and, with Transmontana possessing Carlos Gracida, the amazing Mexican ten-goaler, Embiricos stands a good chance of keeping his prize.

Perhaps Kerry Packer, the Australian player-patron, fields their most dangerous rivals. His team, Ellerton White, which won the Queen's Cup last year, deploys a brace of fine Argentinian players — Gonzalo Pieres (ten handicap) and

Bautista Heguy (9). Ellerton Black, Packer's junior squad, has another Argentine pair — Pieres's brother, Alfonso (10), and Adolfo Cambiaso (9), aged 17.

Members of the talented Heguy clan, from Argentina, crop up all over the place this year. Apart from Ellerton White's Bautista, Peter Scott's Pendell has Ernesto and Ignacio Heguy while Kennelot Stables has a ten-goaler Heguy No. 3 and so does Bill Bond-Elliott's Santa Fe. The twins of that name, Horacio and Gonzalo, are with Jock Green-Armstrong's Laberge.

The high-goal challenges include two well-balanced all-British teams. Lord Cowdroy has enrolled Lord Charles Beresford to support his son, Charles Pearson, Paul Withers and Alan Kent, while John Horswell has included the formidable Lucas brothers, James and William, with Rod Matthews for his line-up.

The legendary Westchester Cup — first contested in 1886 and last, on the Anglo-American basis for which it was designed, in 1939 — is to be the first prize on International Day in July.

The second match that day will be between Spain and a team organised by the Hurlingham Association for the Silver Jubilee Cup.

This season has opened with a new Hurlingham chairman, John Tyler, and a new vice-chairman, Mark Vestey.

The association also has an additional sub-committee for pony welfare under the chairmanship of a renowned horseman, Lord Patrick Beresford.

With the appointment of a chief umpire, Martin Trotter, last season, that is an aspect of the game that has already greatly improved.

SQUASH RACKETS

Rankings strictly observed

ENGLAND have occasionally sent weak squads to the European team championships to blood young internationals, but the squad in Aix-en-Provence this week leaves little to chance (Colin McQuillan writes).

The European individual junior titles went to Finland and Germany earlier this month and traditional English team domination was only just maintained. But strict application of the national ranking lists makes such problems unlikely at senior level as competition begins today.

The men include Peter Marshall, the national champion, and Simon Parke, the junior world champion, while the women are led by Martine Le Moignan, who this year has lost only to Susan Devoy.

ENGLAND SQUADS: Men: P. Gregory (Sussex), D. Harris (Essex), P. Marshall (Lancashire), J. Nicks (Hampshire), S. Parke (Yorkshire), C. Walker (Essex). Women: P. Ganes (Gloucestershire), C. Jackson (Hants), M. Le Moignan (Hants), S. Wright (Kent).

ملک و ملت کی خدمت

Webb and Jobson press claims for European places

Yorath turns to Roberts

own).

The instructions of

ENGLAND: D. Seaman (Arsenal); L. Dixon (Arsenal); G. Mabbitt (Totternham Hotspur); R. Johnson (Oldham Athletic); J. Dicks (West Ham United); D. Rocastle (Arsenal); N. Webb (Man United); G. Thomas (Crystal Palace); L. Sharpe (Man United); sub: M. Le Tissier, Southampton.

Seeing the sights: English tourists relax in Moscow

nd players, from left, Steven
esterday before meeting the

Stevens, Woods and
CIS Preview page 12

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DRUGS IN SPORT

Torino aiming to solve an enduring mystery

By PETER ROBINSON

Ireland here against the United States this afternoon before, perhaps, facing Leeds United, the newly-crowned Football League champions. at Elland Road on Saturday.

It must be of some concern to Charlton, though, that neither of his senior goalkeepers

Peyton, who will be 36 next month, could make his debut in the English first division before his great rival if, as expected, neither Walton nor

Injured Byrne may miss final

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

is worth as Leeds may do, but for the 1994 World Cup it is important that every "friendly" is approached in a competitive frame of mind if they are to acquit

W. O'Leary (Arsenal), E. McGoldrick (Ipswich Palace), A. McLoughlin (Portsmouth), A. Townsend (Chelsea), S. Surin (Asian Villa), N. Quinn (Manchester City), T. Coyne (Celtic) Substitutes: P. Finnan (Celtic), A. Cascardino (Chelsea), J. Bridge (Tranmere Rovers), B. Carey (Manchester United), M. Milligan (Oldham City)

IN BRIEF

Becker and Borg upsets

te a ruptured thigh muscle
injury that would normally
take six weeks to heal. A
London clinic is giving him
special treatment to enable
his other muscles to compensate.

DRUGS IN SPORT

Player on cannabis faces ban

The rugby league is introducing out-of-season testing this summer.

Peyton takes his place on international stage

**FROM CLIVE WHITE
IN DUBLIN**

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Peyton, who will be 36 next month, could make his debut in the English first division before his great rival if, as expected, neither Walton nor

is worth as Leeds may do, but for the 1994 World Cup it is important that every "friendly" is approached in a competitive frame of mind if they are to acquit

W. O'Leary (Arsenal), E. McGoldrick (Ipswich Palace), A. McLoughlin (Portsmouth), A. Townsend (Chelsea), S. Surin (Asian Villa), N. Quinn (Manchester City), T. Coyne (Celtic) Substitutes: P. Finnan (Celtic), A. Cascardino (Chelsea), J. Bridge (Tranmere Rovers), B. Carey (Manchester United), M. Milligan (Oldham City)

te a ruptured thigh muscle
injury that would normally
take six weeks to heal. A
London clinic is giving him
special treatment to enable
his other muscles to compensate.

The rugby league is introducing out-of-season testing this summer.

FOOTBALL

5 International

CIS (10) 1 ENGLAND (1) 1
Mamedov 63 Smith 5
2:30

SEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION
Olsen 3, Reading 1; OPR 2, Fulham 1

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: Atletico
Paranaense 1, Guaraní 1, Náutico 1,
Fluminense 1.

UKRAINIAN LEAGUE: Group One:
Chornomorets Odessa 3, Shakhtyir Do-
netsk 0; Group Two: Nikolayev 1, Zaporoz-
h'ye 1, Yareta Simferopol 4, Nova
Yuzovka 1, Metallurg Zaporozh'ye 1,
Vremachyuk 0, Karpaty Lvov 2, Temp

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AMERICAN LEAGUE: New York Yankees, St. Louis Rangers, 7. Minnesota Twins, 4. Baltimore Orioles, 1.

BOWLS

CRYSTAL PALM: London and Southern Counties. Singles: Final, Cyprus 90, Warr 58. Fours: final, Phoenix 20, Warr 16. Handicaps: 21.

PREMIER, Wales: World World Water Cup (British team challenge race): Manchester, 12.50. Singles, 12min 17sec. Final, 2. M. Swallow, Chester, and 3. M. Davies, Llanelli, 12.22. C1, 1. M. Davies, Llanelli, 12.59. C2, 1. M. Davies, Llanelli, 14.03. J. Wiliam, RAF, 14.25. Women: C1, 1. G. Wany, Fford, 13.36. 2. P. Harris, Nottingham, 13.59. C2, 1. G. Wany, Fford, 14.03. 2. M. Swallow, Chester, 14.05. 3. M. Davies, Llanelli, 14.05. 4.00 British World Water Series. Fifth event: 2. M. Swallow, Chester, 1. N. Stamp, Cardiff, 1.58.52. 2. M. Davies, Llanelli, 20.55. 3. R. Harris, Fford, 21.00. 4. G. Wany, Fford, 21.07. 2. A. 25.58. RF: 23.13. 3. R. Harris, Fford, 23.25. RF: 23.13. 4. G. Wany, Fford, 23.25. 5. T. Wiggins/Simpson, Nottingham, 23.37. 6. Wiggins/Simpson, Nottingham, 23.55. Women: C1: 1. R. Harris, Fford, 13.36. C2: 1. R. Harris, Nottingham, 23.09. 2. J. Harris, Nottingham, 23.36.

SHOOTING

WORLD LEAGUE: RAF Germany open shooting. Coubertin Cup (500, 300 and 200m, teams of four), 1. RAF UK, 561. 2. RAF Germany, 549. 3. RAF Germany, 549. 4. RAF Germany, 549. 5. RAF Germany, 549. 6. RAF Germany, 549. 7. RAF Germany, 549. 8. RAF Germany, 549. 9. RAF Germany, 549. 10. RAF Germany, 549. 11. RAF Germany, 549. 12. RAF Germany, 549. 13. RAF Germany, 549. 14. RAF Germany, 549. 15. RAF Germany, 549. 16. RAF Germany, 549. 17. RAF Germany, 549. 18. RAF Germany, 549. 19. RAF Germany, 549. 20. RAF Germany, 549. 21. RAF Germany, 549. 22. RAF Germany, 549. 23. RAF Germany, 549. 24. RAF Germany, 549. 25. RAF Germany, 549. 26. RAF Germany, 549. 27. RAF Germany, 549. 28. RAF Germany, 549. 29. RAF Germany, 549. 30. RAF Germany, 549. 31. RAF Germany, 549. 32. RAF Germany, 549. 33. RAF Germany, 549. 34. RAF Germany, 549. 35. RAF Germany, 549. 36. RAF Germany, 549. 37. RAF Germany, 549. 38. RAF Germany, 549. 39. RAF Germany, 549. 40. RAF Germany, 549. 41. RAF Germany, 549. 42. 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Bates: first-round victory in Taiwan

[illegible][illegible]

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA), Play-
ers' Association Conference Board, Calif.
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week since 3-0)

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL)—First round
of playoffs: Pacific division—New York
Islanders 8, New Jersey Devils 5; New
York Rangers 7, Philadelphia Flyers 5-2;
Pittsburgh Penguins 5, Washington Cap-
itals 2 (Washington lead, 3-2); Adams
division—Montreal Canadiens 7, Hartford
Whalers 4 (Montreal lead, 3-2); Buffalo
Sabres 7, Boston Bruins 0 (Boston lead, 3-
0)

HOCKEY, Czechoslovakia: World
championship: Pool A: Finland 6
Sweden 7, Sweden 0 Pool B:
Finland 4, Poland 3; Switzerland 2,
Soviet 2

G RESULTS

College

1st try
(2m 41h) 1, Master William C Grant,
12m 41h, 2, Steve Wilburn F 11, 3,
4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19,
20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38,
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Taylor springs surprise by selecting Daley

Palmer, who started his career at West Bromwich Albion and modelled himself there on Robson, is a natural jester. "There is a time to be serious," he says, "and I think there should be a time to have some fun."

Photograph, page 31

Photograph, page 31

BY DENNIS SIGNY AND LOUISE TAYLOR

Win

Sitting pretty: Tendulkar, pictured at the Oval yesterday, is aiming to charm the Yorkshire public with his skill this season

BY IVO TENNANT

The signing will be good for the Yorkshire leagues but the worst thing we can do is to put a coloured player in the side who is not as good as his team-mates. But I think young Asians will start com-

Tendulkar said he took two days to decide to join Yorkshire. Before signing his one-year contract, he sought advice from Kapil Dev, Ravi Shastri and Sunil Gavaskar, who last year acclaimed

Tendulkar, who will practice this morning, will bat this season at No. 4, starting with the Benson and Hedges Cup match against Kent tomorrow. His salary, around £30,000, will be effectively paid for by Yorkshire Television. "I will be kind to Asian spectators," he said, "but my main job will be to make runs. When Yorkshire are a good side, England are a good side."

Was he content to be com-

He said it had been "a dream" to be asked to play county cricket, although he can hardly have anticipated that he would be asked to join Yorkshire.

Keighley, who had been earmarked as Norman Yardley's successor as captain, swiftly departed for a very different life, sheep farming in Western Australia.

Yorkshire will be hoping Tendulkar stays a while longer.

Notts win, page 30

BY PHIL YATES

bledon

while Terry Griffiths, winner of the title in 1979, established a 5-3 lead over Peter Ebdon, the first-round conqueror of Steve Davis.

RESULTS: *Quercus* spp.: T. *Carolinensis* (Wales) leads P. Eodon (Eng) 5-3. *Fraxinus* (scroops) Griffiths frax: 69-48, 99-5, 68-60, 57-37, 1-134, 8-54, 65-57, 16-72. J. *Parrotia* (Eng) level with A. *McMurtrei* (Scott.) 4-2. *Fraxinus* (Parrott) frax: 51-50, 0-128, 1-84, 62-43, 68-44, 88-21, 38-74, 93-92. S. *Hamamelis* (Scott) leads D. *Oaks* (NZ), 5-3. *Hamamelis* (Hendry) frax: 43-68, 98-44, 1-114, 0-68, 125-4, 70-37, 128-0, 81-24. J. *White* (Eng) leads J. *Wych* (Can), 6-2. *Fraxinus* (Wich) frax: 0-71, 15-87, 50-46, 51-80, 79-2, 72-29, 113-4, 78-15.

Following last year's championship, in which 31 century breaks were compiled, there was concern in some quarters that the pocket openings were both inconsistent and, on some occasions, bordering on the

Godwin, who has worked as a table fitter for 20 years and in that capacity at the championship since 1982, said: "I recently reclothed the table used for the 1985 Irish Masters and I couldn't believe how easy the pockets looked compared with those we have today."

Statistics from this year's championship show the effects of the tightening process. Although Jimmy White made the pockets appear like buckets during his 147 break in the first round, it is one of only 12 century breaks compiled in the opening ten days of the championship. At the same stage last year 21 had been recorded.

EEN observers of the world championship, both at the Crucible Theatre and on television, may have noticed more attempted pots are potted in the jaws of the pockets than in previous years (Phil Yates writes).

This is not mere imagination for, after a decision by the game's governing body, the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) to achieve a uniform size and shape of pocket this season for all its events, the pockets have become tighter.

Following last year's championship, in which 31 century breaks were committed, there was concern in some quarters that the pocket openings were both inconsistent and, on some occasions, bordering on the

Pete Godwin, the senior table fitter of BCE, which supplies the tables for all world ranking tournaments, was instructed to construct an ex-

BY ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

Overall, the prize-money for the championships has risen by ten per cent to £4,416,820, which keeps Wimbledon ahead of the Australian Open, on a par with

In 1982, the Open champion, Tom Watson, won £32,000, the Wimbledon champion, Jimmy Connors, £41,667. Ten years on, the

Open champion will receive £95,000 — £170,000 less than the Wimbledon champion

With a super series of nine Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) events, each worth a total of £1 million in prize-money, scheduled for next year, and the four grand slams, the tennis goose just keeps on laying golden eggs.

0,000	£171,000	£3,183,740
5,000	£207,000	£3,819,730
10,000	£216,000	£4,010,970
15,000	£240,000	£4,416,820

growing debate about the dominance of power in the game. Figures released recently by the ATP indicate that, because of increased time at change-overs and between points, and because rallies are shorter, the average play time each hour of

"The slowness of the matches is a bigger worry than the problem of power," Chris Gorrington, the chief executive of Wimbledon, said. "Bringing the gap between points down by five seconds would have the biggest impact on the game."

But Wimbledon does not intend to do anything else about slowing down the big servers. "We think there is a problem for all tennis, not just for grass," Curry said. "But we don't know the answer." With demand for tickets still outstripping capacity, and profits healthy, there is no real hurry to find one, either. Among other changes re-

There was also confirmation that, in an effort to recreate a little of the atmosphere of the middle Sunday last year, 2,000 unreserved centre court tickets will be on sale on the middle Saturday at the reduced price of £20. Tickets for courts one and two will also be reduced.

Torrential rain flooded some outside courts yesterday and served as a timely reminder that, for the first time, ticket-holders can have a full refund if there is no play.

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WOMEN
Female self-indulgence:
the Pussy
Posse



LIFE & TIMES

WEDNESDAY APRIL 29 1992

HOMES
With building
costs low,
now's the time
to restore



The infidel who brought his wife

The Gulf conflict showed the strong arm of the so-called weaker sex. Kate Muir discovers how women soldiers changed the army as much as it changed them

Until a war occurred in a distant Middle East country in 1991, it was quite reasonable for the British public to assume the work of their women soldiers largely consisted of flower-arranging in the officers' mess and typing for porty generals. Our girls would no more take up guns than their counterparts in the Salvation Army. They were not dangerous. They were decent.

That was how many of Britain's military leaders felt too. When the Gulf conflict blew up, only male troops were sent to the desert at first. The decision to keep female soldiers off the desert lines was partly because of Saudi Arabian tradition and partly because of old-fashioned Western male tradition. But as in all wars, the nurses going out tended to be female. Then the Royal Air Force took female air-traffic controllers and mechanics, and finally warships — which had just gone mixed a few months before — sailed for the disputed waters.

There were already a few Sandhurst-trained women officers who had left with their largely all-male units, so it was by then, pointless to try to stop the flow of ordinary female soldiers. Besides, if the female troops had not been with the units they had served for years in peacetime, the already-stretched allied forces would have been like a piece of bad knitting. A dropped stitch here, a hole there, and eventually the lot would have started to unravel.

Pressure from the armed forces minister, Archie Hamilton, and from the Women's Royal Army Corps pushed the British forces into a unisex war. What was the point of making women into soldiers if they were never given the chance to do their job?

The British sent about 1,000 women, making about 4 per cent of their force, and the Americans sent more than 33,000, making 6 per cent of theirs. Saddam Hussein told the Saudi Arabians they should be ashamed, for not only were they letting the Western infidel fight their battles, but the infidel had brought his wife. How could a great nation bear to be defended by weak and feeble women?

The weak and feeble turned out to be pretty useful. It was women who loaded ammunition and set the computer co-ordinates on the Patriot anti-missile batteries which destroyed Saddam's Scuds. It was women, alongside their male colleagues, who handcuffed Iraqi prisoners-of-war as they ran in surrender from their tanks and foxholes. It was women — I of them — who came home as the men did in bodybags from Desert Shield and Desert Storm, despite the fact they were not officially "in combat".

Their performance in the Gulf war brought British and American women soldiers long-awaited respect. A few months' hard work in the desert did more for military women than years of public politicking and painstaking confidence-building. Plans on paper to keep female soldiers out of the combat zone were unworkable in a war of long-distance missiles rather than trenches. Out of necessity,

women flew aircraft and helicopters over the front line and went far forward into the battlefields. In short, they broke most of the rules and the sky did not fall in.

The camp of the headquarters company of The Royal Scots in Kuwait was close to the Iraq border. The battleground was all around, evidenced by razor-wired minefields, half-melted Russian tanks, shards of twisted metal and torn pieces of clothing. The camp was a large one, tall green tents each sleeping dozens of the 300 or so infantrymen. But in the centre of the camp, isolated in sand, there was one small tent. It was the women's tent. The woman was Lieutenant Wendy Smart, aged 25 and second in command of the company. She had not talked with someone of her own sex for three months.

Unlike the other British enlisted women, who were posted in small groups or all-female platoons, Lt Smart had no support and no choice but to go it alone. On G-Day, February 24, the day the ground war began, she was in charge of the lead vehicle in a convoy of food and water trucks which followed a few miles behind the front-line fighting troops and tanks into Iraq. They travelled through the breach in the enemy's defences in the dark, avoiding cluster bombs and anti-personnel mines littering the track, hearing the roar of battle a few miles ahead, watching the flash of explosives ripping across the black sky, feeling the vibrations through the ground. "I had a grid point on the map where we were supposed to be and a compass, and if I got the distance and bearing wrong, we could have ended up on enemy lines. So it was on my head," Lt Smart stopped speaking and looked down at her boots in the sand.

She had been too anxious to sleep for more than one or two hours as her convoy travelled almost non-stop for four days and nights. "I worried more about the boys than myself. I felt so responsible." The convoy followed the British



Digging for victory: members of The Royal Corps of Transport make trenches around a camp near the Gulf port of Al-Jubail in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war

showered by torchlight after the men had finished and did not ask for a special dinner to be set aside for her. But the social side was much harder.

"The Jocks have a brilliant sense of humour, but they don't like women in the army and they make it difficult at times," she said. "It is very lonely out here. The two warrant officers [commissioned from the ranks] are in their forties and don't particularly want to talk to me and I can only talk to the boys so much, in my position. I can't really talk to them as friends."

A young private arrived with bottled water at the tent and addressed her as "Ma'am". "It's nice for the boys to chat to a female. They can let go, be more honest. On the other hand, if I sit too long with one of them, that's it — I get accused of having an affair."

Frustration may be what makes competent and courageous Sandhurst graduates like Lt Smart eventually leave the army for a better-paid management job in civilian life. Although, in retrospect, she said she had enjoyed and got a lot out of her time with The Royal Scots, she was worried that future posts might not be so challenging.

After the Gulf she was sent back to her regiment in Germany, as second-in-command of a fire-support company. In 1992, she was specially selected to be the first troop commander of women at the Army Apprentice College in Harrogate, Yorkshire.

The position of women in the British army — unlike the American — was until recently archaic. The British Women's Royal Army Corps had not got its independence really since its formation in 1949. (The second world war was a different matter.) The separate WRAC has now amalgamated with the mainstream army, but in 1991 it was in its death throes. Its revealingly unwarlike motto was "Gentle in Manner. Resolute in Deed".

Many of the female soldiers sent to the desert were used to being groomed and coiffed, wearing white gloves and tight dress uniforms in their regular jobs chattering brigadiers in Vauxhall Cavaliers. Now, armed with sub-machine guns, 50 dust-grimed women were driving essential supplies for The Royal Corps of Transport (RCT) in four-ton trucks, or petrol tankers, or JCB diggers somewhere in the endless desert, without headlights in the blackout during Saudi attacks. At one point, there were two deaths a day on the main supply route from the coast to the desert battlefields. The sides of the road were dotted with twisted, burnt-out vehicle wrecks. The female truckers who were part of 68 Squadron RCT had no serious accidents. The men did.

Like her fellow truckers at the coastal Al-Jubail base, Private Katy Picken was in her early twenties, tanned and comfortable in desert camouflage trousers and big boots. She strutted around, as though she had worn clothes like that all her life. It was a few weeks after the end

of the ground war and the women's increased confidence following their metamorphoses from chauffeurs into truckers was visible, as was their grubby. Pie Picken said that when they arrived the male drivers thought they were "dollybirds" and were constantly dismissive of them. Later, they got more respect. Having tasted a real war, she would like to serve in Northern Ireland.

Corporal Elaine Dargie, a driver with the nearby 77 Squadron RCT, said at this stage in her career, she had done everything and the only thing that would keep her in the army was that it expanded the number of jobs open to women, right up to the front.

The women truckers' gains in confidence did not go unnoticed — they changed the army just as much as the army changed them and the RCT is presently opening far more trades to women. Major Robert Luke of 77 Squadron, which had drivers of both sexes, said his fears that the women would be passengers were unfounded. With some lyricism, he continued, "The sky is black with the wings of chickens coming home to roost on the corpses of sacred cows which have been slaughtered."

Maj Luke sat at a bench in the sun surrounded by his female driving team in a commandeered Saudi complex of concrete boxes which resembled a prison camp. At least it had showers. The rest of the women were in tents in the desert for up to eight months. Out there soldiers of either sex hated the dust storms, the stinking chemical la-

trines, the constant stress of Scud attacks, and the boiling hot, charcoal-lined chemical warfare suits that turned their skin black. All the problem — the forces' favourite euphemism for periods — went and "the separate toilets and showers problem" also dissipated in the desert, when creating a ladies meant no more than digging an extra hole in the sand and covering it with a lid. And when a shower was in fact a bucket with some holes drilled in it, it was easy enough to create an additional one.

But terror of the dirty word "hygiene" knew no bounds. Most of the British women sent to the Gulf were encouraged by army medical advisers to go on the pill for six months without a break, so they had no periods at all. The full-

time prescription was suggested because women might have problems with menstruation in their chemical suits. A few women, officers thought that was unhealthy.

It was not just the contraceptive pill which was a worry, but its combination with the other anti-chemical warfare drugs given to

Continued on page 5

The women's confidence was visible, as was their pleasure in looking tough and grubby

armoured divisions which intended to surprise the Iraqi troops by coming upon them from behind. "Usually we were 30 kilometres behind, but sometimes it was five, and at one position they were still fighting so we went round them. I don't think they realised we were that close." Although women were banned from the front, Lt Smart like many others, found herself right in the combat zone.

In her small desert boots, with a red Arab scarf on top of her camouflage gear, short touselled hair, and wearing sunglasses, Lt Smart just about reached the chest height of some of the men she commanded. In guns, she probably equalled them.

She could cope with the practical side of being the one woman among hundreds of men, she

Too late, too late, so never call me mother

An old friend of mine, who five years ago migrated to the country with her husband to propagate children and rear a garden, recently sent me a card which I didn't know quite how to take. "Wishing you all good luck," she wrote, "on your chosen path." I sat looking at it with my fingers in my mouth. What did she mean, exactly, by this notion of the "chosen path"? I assumed she meant it kindly, but it made me feel suddenly exposed and distant. Hey, suddenly exposed and distant. Suppose where did everybody go? Supposing that she imagined herself on a path radically divergent from mine. I instantly pictured myself labouring alone up a narrow, steep, dusty, brambly trail with a determined look on my face, as though illustrating a modern-day parable about the grim sacrifices of feminism.

So vivid was this picture, in fact, that I could feel the singing nettles brushing against my legs. It was awful. I felt thirsty; my head swam; the sun scorched my shoulders. Looking down, I observed my friend ambulating happily in the sunshine on a broad level path with a pam and husband, while small apple-cheeked children ran off to right and left, frolicking with lambs. I would have watched for longer, but a blake called Bunyan came along and told me to hop it.

Said I was straying on his territory. So luckily that was that. But I was definitely confused by the notion of the chosen path, and dwell on it for days. Did I choose this, then? And if so, why couldn't I remember doing it? Hadn't I always thought, rather naively, that there was still time to make these decisions about wife-and-motherhood in the future — that the crossroads were just over the horizon? But it turns out that the last exit was miles back, and I am a person whose chosen path speaks for itself. The hardest part was realising I can never be a teenage tennis phenomenon. How on earth did I let things drift so badly?

For some reason I thought of the careers mistress at school — perhaps because she represents the single point in my life when I recognised a T-junction and made a definite choice. She wanted us all to be nurses, you see, and I refused. Brainy sixth-formers would queue at the careers office with fancy ideas about Oxford and Cambridge and archaeology, and come out again 15 seconds later, waving nursing application forms and looking baffled. "You have to have A-levels to do that," she would bark after them, switching. And then, turning to the next in line. "Now, my dear,

SINGLE LIFE

Lynne Truss finds herself diverted down a nettly path



which branch of the noble profession do you want to join?"

At my age, women are supposed to hear the loud ticking of a biological clock, but I think I must have bought the wrong battery for mine. The only time I experienced the classic symptoms was when I desperately wanted a car. It was weird. If I spotted another woman driving a Peugeot 205, I would burst into tears. In the end, friends

tactfully stopped mentioning their cars in my presence. "My Volvo did such a funny thing the other day — such a funny thing," I didn't see it. Lynne, how awful, I didn't see you!" And there was that one shameful occasion when I lurked outside a supermarket half-considering snatching a Metro. "What a lovely bonnet you've got," I whispered, fingering it lightly. But then a woman shouted "Oi!" so I picked up my string bag and scurried.

Now I realise that what I want is a book. So much do I want to give birth to a book that I experience "false alarms" — where I think I am "with book", but am not really. Once a month I phone up my agent and say "It's happening!" And she says, "How marvellous!" And then I have to ring again a week later and say "Bad news," and she says, "Never mind, conception is a mysterious thing." I suddenly realise that a book would be a comfort in my old age, and I try to ignore the argument that there are already too many books in the world competing for the available shelf-space. Mine, of course, will be a poor fatherless mite, but I shall love it all the more for that.

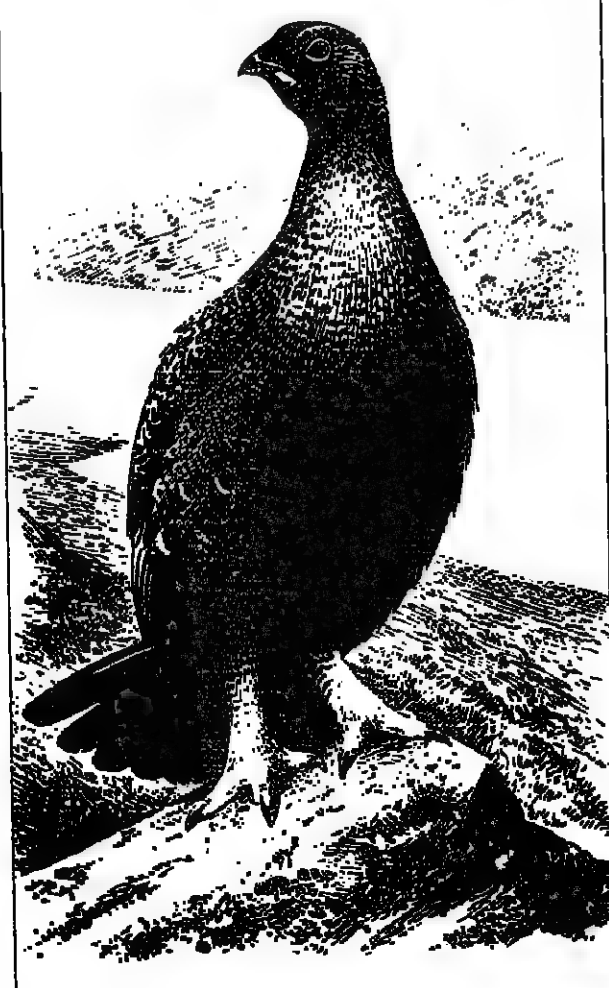
Perhaps the image of the paths and crossroads is just the wrong one. Perhaps I did always know where I wanted to go, but just walked backwards with my eyes

closed, pretending there was no act of will involved. Because I do recall from early youth that while other children pleaded with their mums for miniature bridal outfits and little dolls that went wee-wees, I was campaigning for a brick-built Wendy House in the garden where I could lock the door and sit at an enormous typewriter. My only imaginary friends were phantom insurance collectors, a man from Porlock and the printer's boy.

My idea of a Wendy House was a rather grandiose one, I suppose. It involved guttering and utilities and a mantelpiece where I could put the rent money, not to mention trouble with the drains. I remember when a little friend told me she had acquired a Wendy House, and I was wild with envy. But when I went to see it, it was just a canvas job with painted-on windows. Fancy telling a gullible kid that this was a Wendy House. Sometimes I wonder what happened when she eventually uncovered the deception. Probably she married somebody with a big house and had lots of kids in double-quick time, to establish a sense of security. In which case, I wish her all good luck on her chosen path.

TOMORROW
Private Life John Diamond

RAISED IN THE HIGHLANDS



THE
FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE

Make for Hay while the sun shines

LITERATURE

The summer circuit of literary festivals begins this week. Nicolette Jones analyses the enduring appeal of public celebrations of the solitary craft of writing

The literary festival season is here. Writers can spend all summer chasing faces familiar from jacket photographs around the country. The festivals listed below (and the list is not comprehensive) represent a phenomenal amount of organisational effort, much of it voluntary. But what exactly is it all for?

Festivals of performance and visual arts have a certain logic: drama, dance and music has to be performed, after all; films and exhibitions have to be viewed. But literary festivals are an odd idea. Books reach an audience without auditoria. Both writing and reading are solitary activities, and being impressive on the page is no guarantee of being the same on a platform. Imagine Emily Dickinson or J.D. Salinger addressing a full house.

As novelist Graham Swift (appearing this year at Brighton, Hay and Cheltenham) puts it: "It's all a long way from the business of writing, which is done in a mysterious and rather private way. Sometimes there is an assumption that writers should be on call to have views and opinions and make statements. But one of my reasons for writing fiction is that it's a way of dealing with the world that avoids making statements and having opinions."

On the other hand, says Swift, "there is no harm in meeting the public, on whom your livelihood and whole occupation depends. And they have a strange fascination with what authors look like and how they speak."

Some authors, of course, relish the chance to perform. John Mortimer, who will talk at Hay about his research for a forthcoming anthology of villains, says that "doing a turn" compensates for the "withdrawal symptoms" of no longer being a barrister. And for a few, the performance is a significant part of the work: the rap poet Benjamin Zephaniah, for instance, who was once nominated for the Oxford poetry professorship, is

probably better appreciated in performance than in print. This year his will be one of the few literary interludes at Bath. For writers, the pleasure of the festival can be the same as for members of the public: it gives them a chance to meet writers. London's ICA festival is built around bringing together authors who wanted to meet each other. Its organiser, Linda Brandon (the driving force behind bringing Dorfman's *Death and the Maiden* to Britain) has tried to break away from simply following publishers' promotion.

'Being impressive on the page is no guarantee of being the same on a platform'

al schedules and responded to writers' own enthusiasms. In her programming, Brandon is assembling many writers "from countries where the role of the writer is a matter of life and death". She believes this will help to break down Britain's intellectual insularity.

The context of a festival can not only open cultural doors but can coax those closer to home who are not renowned publicity seekers into the limelight. At Hay, for example, Doris Lessing will read this year. Or it may offer new perspectives: Hay's imaginative invitation to an actress will bring Billie Whitelaw to talk about her collaboration over the years with Samuel Beckett. Although festivals help to sell books, few people - even among sponsors, organisers and publishers - regard them as primarily commercial ventures. Most are funded in part by local authorities and arts councils. They do not make profits: at best they break even. Sponsors contribute for the sake of publicity and image;

Waterstone's bookshops, backing the ICA festival, are pleased to be associated with quality literature.

Organisers express a desire to enrich local life. Peter Florence, the young actor who has run the Hay festival unpaid for five years, says he was inspired to establish a festival because he had performed in festivals elsewhere and thought it would be fun. He carries on because it is.

All this altruism and worthiness, however, does not put festivals above controversies and power struggles. At Hay-on-Wye, the efforts of Florence and his family met with accusations of exclusivity from a neighbour, the second-hand bookseller and self-styled "king of Hay", Richard Booth. Sheffield's Book Festival of 1989 met with objections that not enough was done for the local community: this year there are workshops and community-based activities.

And there are even some guardians of literature who murmur at Jeffrey Archer's inclusion in this year's Hay-on-Wye programme; they may find some satisfaction in the fact that only half as many tickets have so far been sold for his appearance as for the more highbrow attractions of Martin Amis, historian Simon Schama and Israeli novelist Amos Oz. But then, stimulating debate and disagreement is perhaps the most important function of the literary festival.

● A selection of this summer's literary festivals: The season begins this Friday with Brighton's International Festival (0273 674357), which runs until May 24. Besides theatre, music, dance and visual arts events, it has a rich literary programme of readings, workshops and discussions. Attending luminaries range from Booker prize-winner Ben Okri to crime novelist P.D. James. On May 6 an ambitious festival of encounters between writers, "News from the Written World", begins at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in The Mall, London SW1 (071-930 0493), and runs until November. At Hay-on-Wye on the Welsh borders, the second-hand book capital of the Broadway Media Centre (0602 410053), although primarily a film festival, includes a weekend dedicated to crime writers (May 29-31). The main festival (0242 463362, May 22 to June 7) is mostly for the performing arts,



Literary birds of passage, who are either present or represented on the festival circuit this year, clockwise from top left: Charles Dickens, Robert Burns, Doris Lessing, Martin Amis, John Mortimer, Billie Whitelaw and P.D. James

but it also has the odd reading and a literary dinner. And in Nottingham the International Crime and Mystery Festival at the Broadway Media Centre (0602 410053), although primarily a film festival, includes a weekend dedicated to crime writers (May 29-31). The main festival (0242 463362, May 22 to June 7) is mostly for the performing arts,

Roche, on the Medway in Kent, which claims to be the setting for *Great Expectations*. The Dickens Festival (0634 843666) which runs there from May 28 to 31 includes a beauty contest of men in Victorian swimming costumes. Dickens enthusiasts immediately how this is connected with the author. Or you

might care to dash up north for the Robert Burns and Ayrshire Arts Festival (0292 43700, from May 30 to June 7) and revel in the local hagiography of the Burns Rite and an enactment of *The Tale of Tam O'Shanter*.

Later, Yorkshire comes into its own with the Yorkshire Arts Festival (0943 608505, June 11-14) and Sheffield (0742 734716, June 20 to July 11). The first Observer Festival happens at Dartington Hall in Devon (0803 866051, August 24-31). Then things go quiet until October, which sees Cardiff (0222 492025, October 3-10), Ilkley Park Two (October 8-11) and, lastly, the Cheltenham Festival (0242 521621, from October 10 to October 18).

THEATRE: INTERVIEW

Waiting to put on the write stuff

Oliver Award-winning director Stephen Daldry, newly ensconced at the Royal Court, outlines his plans to Matt Wolf



Sloane Square view: Stephen Daldry at the Royal Court

April 1, 1992 was no laughing matter at the Royal Court Theatre, since it marked the arrival of Stephen Daldry as the playhouse's artistic director designate and eventual successor to the top job next year. Daldry's appointment cheered some and bewildered others when it was announced in November.

What was someone best known in London for staging bygone German and Spanish esoterica doing taking over the country's leading theatre for new writing? And why had he insisted on retaining the present artistic director, Max Stafford-Clark, in a primary and then subsidiary capacity, for a further three years, when the whole point of Daldry's appointment was presumably the board's desire for change?

Daldry describes his task as one of "re-locating" his theatrical perceptions after a successful tenure running West London's Gate Theatre. On Sunday the Gate received an Olivier Award, a fitting recognition of Daldry's achievement. That post allowed Daldry to unleash an epic directorial vision on virtually unknown foreign terms. "I had spent a lot of time reading and feeling other cultures in my head," he says. "So I wanted to re-define myself in

terms of being British. The best way to do that was obviously to come back to primarily British plays." What clinched his acceptance of the Royal Court job was the space itself, which must have seemed like theatrical balm after several years shoe-horning large productions into the 60-seat Gate. "There are a number of directors that have enjoyed working in small spaces: I'm not one of them," he says. "I've tried never to allow that to stop me doing big plays, or indeed, to have big gestures within them, but I do lean naturally towards big spaces."

The Court, he says purposefully, is "the perfect theatre, one of the few in which you can create a vision. It doesn't need the broad spectrum that the National needs; it doesn't need the mixed bag that regional theatre needs. That means it can support writers in a way other theatres can't."

In terms of dividing the spoils with Stafford-Clark, Daldry maintains: "It's difficult to say 'that's mine, and

this is his.'" But already the newcomer's influence can be felt. Next week's Theatre Upstairs premiere of German dramatist Klaus Pohl's *Karate Billy Comes Home* was originally intended for the Gate, until Daldry's new position allowed him to shift venues. He was also instrumental in the Court snatching up John Guare's New York hit, *Six Degrees of Separation*, after the National turned it down.

It was he, too, who paid Guare's vision of transcendence, Manhaman-style, with director Phyllida Lloyd, who is both a colleague and a friend. Admitted that he needs to steep himself more in current writing before he can feel comfortable pronouncing on it, Daldry nevertheless sees Guare's play as evidence of "a new romanticism".

Daldry, 31 next month, comes naturally by his theatrical interests: his mother, he says with affectionate grandeur, was "a cabaret artiste". Dorset-born, he joined a youth theatre in Taunton. He read English and Drama at Shel-

field, in close proximity to such Court writers as Brenton, Sarah Daniels and Louise Page, and later developed his avidity for European theatre as an associate to then-artistic director Clare Venables at the same city's Crucible Theatre.

"You find writers with whom you feel at home, and those are who you do," says Daldry, whose next directing task is likely to be mounting J.B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls* at the National this autumn. "I made a decision when I went to the Gate only to do the work I really wanted to do. It's a service industry, directing; one is servicing the writer. It's about whatever charges you when you read it: that's all it is."

ARTS BRIEF

Signs of youth

STUNG by jibes that they are biased towards the wrinkles, the organisers of the Burton Ale British Jazz Awards have given more prominence than usual this year to young musicians. Saxophonist Dave O'Higgins and the quartet led by pianist Julian Joseph were the winners in two newly created categories: young soloist and young ensemble. Most of the other top results announced in Birmingham reflected a preference for mainstream veterans such as Humphrey Lyttelton and his Band (best small group), Stan Tracey (best pianist) and John Dankworth (best composer/arranger). But there was at

least welcome recognition for the Scottish singer Carol Kidd, voted best vocalist. A posthumous award went to the broadcaster and critic Peter Clayton, who died last year, for services to British jazz.

Last chance...

YOUNGER than Happy Mondays, snappier than Inspiral Carpets and considerably more visible than the Stone Roses, EMF is the latest in a succession of bands who have welded the trappings of rap and dance culture on to a rock group chassis. With an EP, "The Unexplained", entering the chart this week at No 18, the band finishes a tour with dates at the Astoria, London WC2 (071-434 0403) tonight; UEA, Norwich (0603 505401) on Friday; and Coventry Polytechnic (0203 631313) on Saturday.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Culture and class clashes

The only brother of eight sisters, Hanefi Yeter remembers his Turkish childhood as a "fairytale" time among the bare mountains and weaving looms of Bayburt. The idyll continued in Istanbul, where he found himself drawn to the art academy and then in love with an Armenian girl, followed her to Paris.

But once Yeter began studying art in earnest at the Berlin Academy, the conflict began. Should he follow German traditions or stay close to the traditions of his native land? According to Yeter, in an absorbing *Rear Window* profile aptly called *Looking for the Way* (Channel 4), he chose the Turkish path. The paintings we saw, though, showed an artist torn between cultures. The bearded, quiet-spoken Yeter has been living in Berlin for 15 years now. He pointed out how the Turkish miniature tradition encouraged him to

concentrate on surface rather than depth, and to develop his compositions vertically. The camera travelled up a painting alive with festive food and flowers on a table top, proving the stylistic point. But at the top, a row of dark, scowling faces excluded from the feast belonged to a different order of feeling.

They declared Yeter's awareness of the socially protesting art of George Grosz. A dipych of car passengers confirmed his debt to the Weimar republic's most rasping chronicler. In one painting, Turks sat, journeying anxiously. In the other, a smug, cigar-smoking German relished the comfort of a Mercedes while his bored wife sat beside him.

Yeter revealed that the dipych had provoked anger among people who asked why he portrayed Germans as ugly. The answer is that his Berlin sojourn made him painfully aware of the alienation and prejudice suffered by Turkish workers in Germany.

Although the exterior world and political issues dominated his work until the mid-Eighties, he complained that subsequent paintings "turned inwards" to subjects which "I liked". But the obsessive series of belly-dancer images, dramatising the tension between their gyrating bodies and the sexual hunger of the audience, seemed just as protesting as his earlier art.

For a while, the city's unif-

cation inspired Yeter to fill his paintings with glowing celebrations of fireworks and ecstatic crowds. More convincing are the ominous recent pictures, generated by his fear of nationalistic, flag-waving Germans on the march with foreigners as their potential target.

Any parent worried about their children's state school education will gain scant comfort from the concluding instalment of The Lions' Den (BBC 2). Nervous probation teacher Matthew Longden has, inexplicably, been made tutor of a class euphemistically described as "frisky 14-year olds". They are, in reality, a teacher's nightmare, and Longden should never have

been put in charge of them. Demoralised by an inability to keep control, Longden is shown videos of his disastrous progress by a former head teacher, Rosemary Cairns. They show how, after a steady, impressive first week, the hapless Longden then spirals downwards as his class erupts in a chaos of swear-words, paper aeroplanes and match-striking. Cairns blames their behaviour largely on him, and he certainly did increasingly lose his composure.

But nothing in his training had prepared him for such monstrous pupils. One boy complains: "There are so many levels of ability in my class that I get bored." Only teachers of exceptional ability can deal effectively with the problems created by the lack of streaming. A depressing indictment of state education today.

RICHARD CORK

Mark Turell, St John Newman for Barry O'Brien (Photo: David Hurn)

by Michael Mann with Neil Moss Theatre

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Bessie and Michael Clark: she appears in a see-through body-stocking enacting the birth of her son, who emerges, virtually naked, beneath her

Born again in ballet

Ellen Cranitch discovers why Bessie Clark is topless on stage in her son's latest show

A mid-morning rehearsal at Pineapple Dance Studios: a group of performers are easing their limbs into impossible angles. Slumped on a plastic seat in the corner, scanning the *Daily Mirror* and drawing heavily on a cigarette, sits Bessie Clark, wearing tracksuit trousers, training shoes and an old Michael Clark T-shirt.

The subject of her T-shirt, her son, is nearby. He is talking about his latest work, kneeling upright with immaculate posture and picking his words with utmost precision. Mrs Clark proceeds to shatter his artistic aura as only a mother can, smiling and winking at whoever might be listening not to take any of it too seriously.

That Leigh Bowery, the iconoclastic costume designer of Clark's new work, felt he would have little in common with Mrs Clark when they first met is not surprising. Yet now they are sharing a dressing room and partnering each other in *Modern Masterpiece*, Mr Clark's first show for his own company for five years. Bessie Clark, 68, mother of four and formerly farmer, cook, nurse and social worker, is now a full-time performer with Michael Clark and Company.

Modern Masterpiece is inspired by Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*. Nijinsky's original ballet depicts a fertility rite celebrating the creative power of

spring. In Clark's version his mother plays the part of the sage.

She appears with breasts bared, full brown skirt and extravagant white wig. After a brief, enigmatic duet with Bowery, dressed in identical skirt and wig, she reappears in a see-through body-stocking. She then enacts the birth of her child, played by Michael, who emerges, virtually naked, from beneath her.

How did Mrs Clark with her strict to perform topless in her son's dance show? She explains: "I was with Michael and two of my friends. Michael was talking about his company's tour of Japan. I suggested, jokingly, that I could come along too. Michael leapt at the idea. I thought he was pulling my leg."

He was not. Believing that a voluptuous earth-mother figure could bring power to the part of the sage, and doubtless also aware of the publicity value of casting his mother in his latest work, he promptly found a role for her.

Backstage in Nottingham Playhouse after the first night, the dressing room Mrs Clark shares with Bowery has the intimate, chatty atmosphere of a hair-dressing salon. Bowery is backcombing

Mrs Clark's hair when Clark enters with two pints of Old Peculiar for himself and Bowery. Mrs Clark drinks Beck's, as a nod to the show's sponsors. While her son paces the room engaged in a feverish, post-mortem of the performance, Mrs Clark eyes herself critically in the mirror, emanating a quiet sense of achievement.

Mrs Clark, reserved though not shy, has grown to enjoy publicity. As Bowery says: "What's true of Michael is true of his mother. She doesn't crave the limelight but she behaves immaculately in it and it becomes her."

She was born in 1924 into a farming family in Turfiff, Aberdeenshire. She left school at 14 to work on a neighbouring farm. After the war, with a daughter from her first, short-lived marriage, she started work as a nursing companion to an elderly woman. She fell in love with the invalid's handsome son, Billy Clark, seven years her junior. They married and had three children, of whom Michael, born in 1962, is the youngest.

Mrs Clark nurtured Michael's evident talent for dancing through regular trips to Scottish dance classes and competitions. When Scottish Ballet brought *The Nutcracker* to Aberdeen

she encouraged him to audition for a part. This proved to be the springboard for his entrance to the Royal Ballet School.

Not long after, Mrs Clark left her husband and the rest of the family in Aberdeen and followed her son to London. She found a job as a warden in sheltered housing for the elderly. She says she made the move in order to "keep an eye on Michael".

She welcomed her son's American boyfriend, the choreographer Stephen Petronio, because "it was Stephen who rescued Michael that time he was in a terrible mess with drink and drugs". She appears at ease with her son's homosexuality and seems to enjoy the company of his friends.

How does she feel about her part in the show? She is not entirely comfortable: "I don't think what my friends would say if they saw me. I just go on stage and do it."

Modern Masterpiece presents us with a bare-breasted mother and her bare-bottomed son. Did the son inherit his outrageous nonconformism from his mother, or has a sensible Presbyterian Scotsman been newly incarnated in the unorthodox image of her son? Neither will say who has led whom more of a merry dance in the intricate choreography of this relationship.

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A cleaner in South Africa has dreams of Barcelona

Clean pair of heels

Evalina Tshabalala is a cleaner. With an old-fashioned mop and bucket she sops the shiny tiles of the Constantia Village shopping mall in Cape Town. She also happens to be the fastest black woman marathon runner in South Africa.

Ms Tshabalala, 26, has two children, a ten-year-old son and a ten-month-old baby, and lives in a tin shack in someone's yard in Guguletu on the Cape Flats. The children live with her mother and her half-dozen brothers and sisters in a black "homeland" hundreds of miles away. She has not seen her baby since Christmas.

Like millions of black South African women, Ms Tshabalala gets up at 4.30 six days a week, to be at work by six. She earns R500 (£100) a month. She sends half to her mother to keep her children. Forty-seven rand goes on bus fares. Another 50 on the rent for her shack. She is left with about £5 a week to buy food.

I visited Ms Tshabalala in the Constantia shopping mall two days before the qualifying race for Barcelona, the South African marathon championships. With her grey mop and nylon overall, she did not look much like a champion.

For men, the best and fastest lists in running and boxing have always been dominated by black names. For black women, it is different. "They carry too much weight and have babies as soon as they're old enough," a top white South African coach said.

Ms Tshabalala is pretty thin. She is one of the five fastest black women marathon runners in the world. As a child she ran 12 miles to school from her home on a farm in Harrismith in the Orange Free State, and 12 back. She loved running, and quickly found a hero, Zola Budd: "All I wanted to do as a girl was be like Zola."

The prospects were not good. By the time she was 16, Ms Tshabalala was pregnant and forced to leave school and

go to Cape Town as a domestic worker. But she kept on running. She did not join a club. She says tactfully that she did not know how, but it would have been almost impossible under the old order.

And then she entered a charity fun run in Hout Bay. She won by miles. The administrators persuaded her to join "Celtic Harriers", Cape Town's top road-running club. She has been running and winning ever since.

Andrew Bell, her white coach, is employed by Ms Tshabalala's club, but he can only see the runner a couple of times a week when he comes to the shopping centre. He did not seem to understand her poverty when he gave her some last-minute tips for the marathon. He told her that she must eat three substantial meals a day.

And then Ms Tshabalala mentioned her shoes. She was wearing a pair of tired-looking trainers. These are Ms Tshabalala's running shoes, her only shoes in fact, the ones she was going to wear for her Olympic challenge. She took them off and showed Mr Bell the broken soles.

Like other South African runners Ms Tshabalala is sponsored — a pair of shoes and a vest with the company logo — but only when there is a crying need. The head of public relations at Adidas, Ms Tshabalala's sponsors, took a quick look at her shoes. She had been wearing them non-stop for two years. She had won dozens of races in them; had cleaned miles of floors in them; and had even worn them to hospital for the birth of her baby. He decided that

she deserved a new pair of shoes.

On one wall of her home, Ms Tshabalala has a few clippings from the local papers about her hope of a trip to Barcelona. Under the bed is a plastic carrier bag in which she keeps her most treasured possessions: dozens of metal medals on ribbons.

She explained that to get to Barcelona she would need to be in the first three home in the marathon. Both she and her coach knew that she did not have a chance of beating Colleen de Reuck, the favourite, and Frith van der Merwe, the South African champion, but there was a good chance she might be third and manage the Barcelona qualifying time of two hours, 35 minutes.

"I know that because I am the first black woman with a chance to go overseas, I am important for all black women," Ms Tshabalala said. "I want to do it for them."

The marathon began at 6.30 in the Cape Town morning. Ms Tshabalala stayed out front ignoring her coach's instructions not to start too fast. Ms De Reuck won in 2:31:21 — the only woman to qualify for Barcelona. Ms Tshabalala came fifth. It was not her best, but it would have got her into the first 15 women in the London marathon.

There is still a chance she might go to Barcelona, but not to run. Because South Africa has so few blacks among its Olympic hopefuls, special arrangements are being made for 25 disadvantaged athletes to wear the team uniform, live in the Olympic village and gather valuable international experience for Atlanta in 1996. Surely there could not be a more deserving candidate than Evalina Tshabalala?

LINDA MCDUGALL

Dispatches: Return to Olympia will be shown on Channel 4 at 9 pm today. Linda McDougall is the head of current affairs at Chrysalis Television.

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Right steps: Evalina Tshabalala, South Africa's fastest black female marathon athlete

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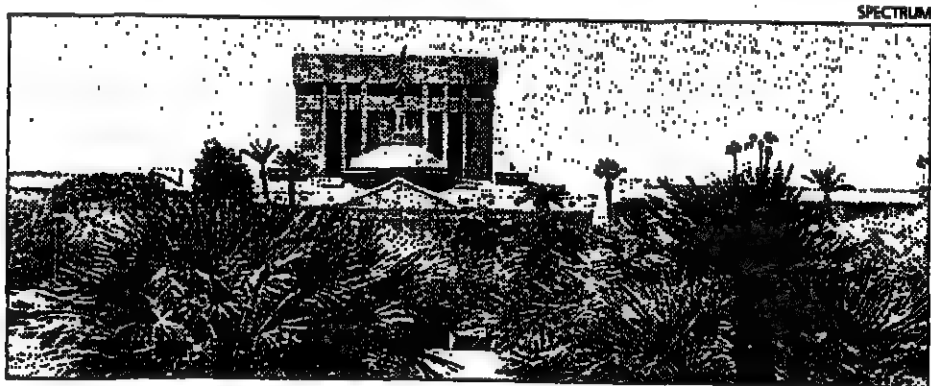
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The State Capitol of Phoenix, a new city, crackling hot in summer, yet cool at night

Time I got to Phoenix

Most people go to Phoenix for the environment, and there is nothing more environment-threatening than most people, *Michael Watkins* writes. You could say, perhaps, that Phoenixians are being hoisted with their own petard, although it is not implausible that they are suffering the effects of Geronimo's revenge — for this land was sacred to the Apache and Hohokam Indians centuries before it was requisitioned by pale faces in 1886 and colonised by snowbirds more recently.

The environment — pollution-free — is crackling hot in summer, yet so cool at night

that temperatures plummet to 85 F. Dry heat, marvellous stuff to inhale, wonderful for a cacti, too. Phoenix is sparkling new, its skyscrapers like up-ended radiators pulsing with solar energy. Its inhabitants are similarly energetic, furnished by the sun. Unlike Los Angeles, who revel in self-parody, Phoenixians unashamedly rejoice in their good fortune. Concerned, as everybody should be, with job status, body odour, the cost of analysis, alimony, and vice president Quayle, they are unwilling to permit such natural catastrophes to impair their delight in residing in the most favoured map reference in the Union.

Two adjacence map references for your notebook: Sedona, 150 miles north of Phoenix, mountainously cool; Canyon de Chelly, which — if you find it — you should never lose.

THE TOKEN

SAVE this token and collect three more during the week. You need four tokens to book your flight for two, with your companion going free. A destination price chart and booking form, with terms and conditions, will appear in *The Times* tomorrow and on Saturday.



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Do mothers know best?

The Mothers' Union provides a champion for cohabitation

generation. For my generation, to live together was running a very great risk of bringing a child into the world without the security and love of both parents.

"The young couples who are living together now are using, it seems to me, the gift God

before marriage and fidelity within it. I would now redefine chastity."

"I would not consider it unchaste to have full sexual relations as a commitment to one person for as long as you can maintain that commitment, which to the vast major-

regularly beaten her. To deep disgrace, she divorced him. She remarried, but it could not be a church wedding. In those days, many would have called that living in sin. But they were patently blessed."

Mrs Nugee recalls a maintenance case which came to court after she became a JP in the 1970s. A couple in their late teens had married in June but by September had decided to separate. The young wife was expecting a baby in December.

"I asked him what he gave her for housekeeping and he said, 'Do you mean that pound I gave her in the pub last week?' I asked them what happened when they came back from their honeymoon. He went back to his mum and she went back to hers. (That was marriage: consummated, consecrated and unbreakable. It was an absolutely travesty.)

"For me, marriage is a relationship which must have a content of love and generosity and which must be renewed daily. I do not believe God wills anything else. I do believe a marriage can die. We say, 'til death us do part', and that does not need to be a physical death. I believe what we should seek as the highest ideal is not just the fact of being married for nearly 60 years, but the fact of still finding joy and enchantment with each other at the end of those 60 years. I saw it with my own parents and I know it exists."

Of the Mothers Union, Mrs Nugee says: "I hope to goodness we are changing because otherwise we will die. The MU must be a living thing that is relevant to its own times. There is nothing worse than the 'our dear founder would not have liked it' attitude."

RUTH GLEDHILL



Rachel Nugee: living together need not be a sin

has given us of the comfort, healing and love of the full sexual relationship, without the risk of bringing a child into the world. To that extent, to me, there is no sin in it."

"I am going to be fit with howling trouble with the rest of the MU for that, but I do strongly believe in it."

Her views were once more traditional. "I used to hold a very traditional view of chastity

ity of people is a commitment for life."

She began to change her views during her engagement, when she told a couple she knew that she hoped for a marriage as happy and Christian as theirs.

"There was the most ghastly hush. Finally the wife said to me, 'Ours' is not a Christian marriage'. It emerged that the woman's first husband had

هذه اسمة الجاهل

Sisters stripped to the skin

What is a Pussy Posse? Rosie Millard spent an evening sampling the further reaches of female self-indulgence

I know I can look Naomi Wolf in the eye; I have conclusive proof I am a post-Feminist feminist. I realised it on Sunday, when I was driving to an all-woman evening in the Porchester Spa, west London, and found myself putting lipstick on in the rear-view mirror.

The evening ahead was not going to involve a glimpse of a man: not even so much as "August" from the Chippendales 1992 calendar. But most of the hundred-or-so other women at the spa also disproved the widely-held belief that women only wear make-up and attractive clothes when men are around: beauty spots, 1950s swimsuits, and glamorous swimming hats (Liz Taylor circa 1962), were all in evidence as the Pussy Posse hosted its first Pamela Pamper evening, for "Birds Only" to lavish care on themselves.

The Pussy Posse has been active for about a year, under the auspices of fashion stylist Sara B. and Farika (manageress of the DNA bar in the Trocadero Centre, Piccadilly, London), it is a movement which aims to give women greater confidence, essentially in the name of safer sex.

Both doyennes of London's club scene, Sara and Farika noted the extraordinary position of many female contemporaries who, as they put it, "were intelligent, educated, and in good jobs; but when it came to asking their boyfriend to put a condom on — forget it".

And so the Posse, promising sex education classes with a smart, amusing profile, came to town, with club evenings full of kissing booths, questionnaires and women in Regency corsets handing out condoms.

But, the Posse believes, the art of being intelligently glamorous needs nurturing, and hence the Pamela Pamper evening. Invitations covered in pink ostrich feathers exorted the faithful to "Pamper Yourself with Pamela... Dress as Bare as You Dare," and enjoy a night designed for utter female abandonment.

The £17 entry fee covered nearly every indulgence known to the

female body: manicures, massage, hair dressing, make-up. "Sexy" food (basically water melon and ice cream) was laid out in the steamy, 1930s atmosphere of the Porchester Spa.

The flower-strewn, hedonistic decor of the building was worth part of the entrance fee alone: delightfully enough, all the preparations had been done by men, who were rather sulkily leaving the building as we turned up.

"I'd love to have an all-male Pamper evening," Alfie McHugh, one of the designers, said. "The trouble is, everyone would think it was just a gay thing. It's just such a good idea for one sex to get together and talk."

I wandered over to the hairdressing area, where fantastically complex coiffures were being produced. "My husband and his friends are all very suspicious," said Susie, sitting in curlers and a towel with her friend Jo. "They all think it's some lesbian orgy. Anyway, I've left him holding the baby."

"Pampering and Preening are very ancient female rituals," announced Pussy Posse stalwart Rebecca Tomlinson, a neo-Diana Dors with peroxide hair and black ribbons, who apparently prefers to be known as Bunny Viben.

"If you look at clothing up until 20 years ago, women have always helped one another dress, and adorned one another. By the way, have you heard of my club, Night of the Living Ultra Vixens? We have games where men have to put on make-up and do the ironing."

"This evening is definitely not to enable you to look good in order to go out and get a man," Sara B, the co-hostess, majestic in a turban, a ribbon choker and little else, said.

"That's precisely why I held it on a Sunday night. It is for women to look good for themselves. I mean, I haven't had a facial for years. I just wish everyone would take all their clothes off. Look at all these people running around in swimsuits. Will you all take your clothes off. Please! There are no men in here!" she bellowed over a microphone.

Not everyone shared her enthusiasm, or, indeed, her dismissal of



Looking good for the media: women at the 'Pamela Pamper' evening at the Porchester Spa help each other to relax in a Pampering and Preening session

stereotype. "I don't think I will be taking my clothes off," Maria, a Swedish secretary from the City, said. "We aren't that sexy, you know. I think most Swedes would be shocked by this."

So much for Scandinavia; it appeared even the West Coast of America had its reservations. "I'm not going to take my swimsuit off," Lisa Descham, a Los Angeles working in London, said. "There's just too much fat there." As far as she was concerned, the credo of the Posse had somewhat backfired. Far

from making her feel more self-confident, appearing in a public place with only a piece of Lycra to her name had filled her with angst. "After this evening I'm going to start a serious work out. Look at these hips!"

And this was a minor problem. For every one woman at the Pussy Posse who really believed that inner beauty was the thing, there were at least two who were all about having thin upper arms and a single chin.

The entertainment, taking place

by the Plunge Pool, included a trio of would-be philosophers in matching swimsuits who sang about "being happy with your mind, not your body, that's all that counts". Beautifully coiffured and powdered, complete with false eyelashes and perfect figures, the Matching Swimsuits seemed unaware of any inconsistency.

"Just because we look good, it doesn't mean we are good," one said kindly. "I mean, you need to decorate your soul, not your body. We just need to look good

because of well, you know, the media. And you can hide flabby thighs with a well-cut swimsuit. I think our looks help open women up."

I felt fairly confident that the Matching Swimsuits would make most women I know want to close down, preferably for ever; but they were given their due by the crowd, who then went back to jollying or magazines and whiling away the evening with a serious dose of self-indulgence.

"This is really just like women relaxing, isn't it," said a reporter from Radio 4's *Woman's Hour*. "Not much out of the ordinary." "Oh yes it is. What about the history of Preening and Ceremonies?" Bunny Viben said.

The Radio 4 woman looked at her curiously, amid the plethora of semi-naked, jangling female forms at Pamela Pamper, "were behaving just like women relaxing."

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'We don't see it as man versus woman'

Continued from page 1

soldiers. Staff Sergeant Jan Rees, aged 33, was working in the RCT operations cell closer to the battlefields. "It wasn't a direct order to take the pill so I didn't take it — not when we were being advised to have anti-anthrax injections and taking NAPS [anti-nerve agent] tablets all at the same time. They said the anthrax was voluntary and that put doubts in your mind. The high doses, designed for male bodies, or perhaps the chemical reaction of such a cocktail of drugs, made the women ill. Most of the Americans did not take the tablets, since they were not all approved by the Federal Drugs Administration. Nor were the Americans advised to use the contraceptive pill non-stop.

The Americans were used to mixed units and found women in the field ordinary, if not downright uninteresting. There was more resistance to female soldiers from British enlisted men and non-commissioned officers, particularly those in their mid-twenties and thirties who were not used to being around women in uniform, except those in traditional administrative or secretarial roles. Now six women drivers were not just in 77 Squadron, they were in the tent next door to Lance Corporal Kevin Carpenter. Sergeant Kevin Parkins, and Corporal Stephen Richardson, all in their twenties.

"Half of them don't know how to use a pick or a shovel and they should be properly trained if they're expected to do it. The problem with the girls is they start off keen, but the moment they meet the challenge and they see we can do it, they lose interest and do less work," said Sgt Parkins, reclining on his American-borrowed camp bed. The tent wall above him was decorated with a poster of a topless model, greetings cards from home, and a blue furry teddy bear. Cpl Richardson was not pleased either. "They're being paid the same as a bloke so they should do the same work."

The girls had it easy was the opinion and not just in the

workplace, but in bed. L Cpl Carpenter said, "If we got up to what I hear women out here have got up to other women, we'd be out." He claimed there was a different standard for lesbians and for homosexuals, and the army turned a blind eye to the women.

Aside from light pornography, battlefield souvenirs affirmed that these were indeed army men to the core. They eagerly displayed a huge knife, demonstrated possible uses of a sort of Iraqi tomahawk, and showed a shell casing and an Iraqi command officer's diary or logbook in Arabic. The women next door — or indeed anywhere else in the Gulf — seemed to have no interest in collecting relics. The men did not find that surprising. "You've got to remember they are women at the end of the day," said L Cpl Carpenter. "Yes, there is that," said Sgt Parkins slowly. "A lot of times my point of view is that they're almost as good a morale booster as they are a pain."

Much the same views prevailed among the women when asked about their male workmates. It sounded like they had had a fairly rough ride to begin with. A sense of humour, they said constantly, was vital for survival. Private Sarah Smith, at 19 one of the youngest women, provided an example of the survival technique. "When we were down in Al-Jubail camp, we found the men were drilling spy holes through the wooden partition between their showers and ours, so we started filling them up with soap. Then after a few days we realised — if they can see us, we can see them. So we looked back at them. And that put a stop to it. Straightaway."

Dealing with hostile fellow soldiers was something many of the women were used to. But this war had an added dimension — it was happening in a Muslim country and the female soldiers had to adapt to that. They had to wear combat jackets for modesty, working in fierce heat, while the men stripped down to T-shirts. Shorts were

banned, except within closed camps. In one incident in a souk, an American woman soldier was hit with a stick by one of the religious police for having the sleeves of her uniform rolled up showing bare arms. She floored him with a punch.

Delicacy and sensibility were not noticeably present around the battlefields, less so where the Americans were camped. Three young American military policewomen who patrolled the bomb-rattled road between the Iraqi border and Kuwait City were in mixed tents for three months. They began by dressing inside their sleeping bags and later would just tell the men to turn their backs, hoping constant exposure would result in boredom rather than anything else.

The presence of women was decidedly more exciting for the prisoners-of-war they rounded up inside Iraq. Sergeant Jeremy Kopina said, "They were just begging for us to put the cuffs on. They couldn't believe we were women. They looked like they thought they were in heaven." She worked 18- to 20-hour days processing prisoners, but seeing the results of combat had not put her off. "I think some women are capable of combat, but you need emotional stability, and there are a lot of men who can't handle it. It's not the dream of every woman to have a marriage and children and all that. Some women have different dreams."

First Lieutenant Tracy McLaughlin, an American helicopter pilot at Kuwait airport, was aged 25, one of the youngest and the only female pilot out of 90, in an army aviation battalion of 225. She worked 22-hour days at the start of the war, running flight operations and flying missions for four or five hours at a time in her Blackhawk helicopter.

"I slept between 11 and one during the day; I was sleeping in the shower, taking cat naps when I was being driven somewhere," she said. "The hardest part of being a woman in this job is the motherly feelings you have towards the men you are sending out." For someone who was normally a

business administrator at the University of South Dakota it was a peculiar few months.

Li McLaughlin was called up as a reserve, but her husband, who is a full-time pilot, stayed in the States flying search and rescue missions for the air force in Rapid City, South Dakota. They had been married for 17 months and had spent seven together. She was not in the army full-time partly because at that time flying opportunities were limited for women: "I can't fly attack helicopters or anything with weapons, though I'd definitely like to."

After the performance of women in the US Air Force and Army airborne divisions in the war, the US Senate voted in August 1991 to allow women to fly fighter planes and combat helicopters.

Major Marie Rossi, the lead pilot of a group of Chinook helicopters, was one of the 22 women pilots with 101st Airborne which sent more than 300 attack helicopters into Iraq during the war, carrying more than 2,000 men, 50 Humvees, howitzers, food and ammunition. Throughout the ground war Maj Rossi, a 32-year-old from Oradell, New Jersey, flew dozens of missions, sometimes carrying ammunition in the cargo holds, or with 2,500 gallons of jet fuel in tanks slung under her helicopter. She flew three missions in the first 24 hours of the war and told CNN in a television interview. "What I am doing is no greater or less than the man who is flying next door to me or in the back of me."

The day after the ceasefire, Maj Rossi's Chinook hit an unlit tower at night in northern Saudi Arabia, and she and her two crewmen were killed. Her last public words remained on the CNN tape. "I think if you talk to the women who are professionals in the military, we see ourselves as soldiers. We don't really see it as man versus woman."

Extracted from *Arms and the Woman* by Kate Muir, to be published on May 5, by Sinclair-Stevenson (£14.95) © 1992 Kate Muir

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The Conservative victory has dispelled the uncertainty and boosted the confidence of the market, Christopher Warman reports. All it needs to get going is a push

Election ends the blues

The post-election euphoria in the commercial property market reflected a collective sigh of relief that Labour had not won power and that the uncertainties of a hung Parliament had been avoided. In the days before the election, property people were predicting disaster if Labour won. Martin Winch, head of the consultancy Lamp, argued that if interest rates increased by up to 2½ per cent as predicted, London's commercial property scene would turn into a wasteland and send the office market into free fall.

That dire thought can now be put aside as the market makes a more considered judgment on prospects for the future. The indicators do not yet promise an early recovery, but there is general agreement that it can begin when given a push.

Paul Orchard-Lisle, senior partner of the international consultants Healey & Baker, believes that positive action from the government is needed, and that means a cut in interest rates. "But with German rates as they are, this may not happen until the autumn, and the delay could stall the recovery."

Bill Yates, senior partner of

Knight Frank & Rutley, says that the property markets experienced shock waves in recent weeks as a result of exceptionally high levels of debt and fears that the next interest rate movements were likely to be upward. "A huge load has been lifted with the return of the Conservative government and a level of confidence will return."

That does not mean, he says, that tenant demand will suddenly increase. "Indeed we believe that it may be 1993 before the property markets revive. The first stage is confidence, and it looks as if we can expect a four to five-year term of stability in currency with a downward trend in interest rates. These are the aspects which are on today's horizon and that were missing before the election."

The agent's UK economic and property investment market commentary, published after the election, reflects that view but says that the level of completed deals will continue to be determined by the quality of the stock offered to the market, the willingness of the banks to relax their lending re-

quirements and by a slackening in the institutions' stock selection criteria.

Recent figures show that bank lending to property companies fell for the third successive quarter, dropping by 1.2 per cent to £39.2 billion in the quarter to April 10. Last year, lending to property companies fell by 2.5 per cent.

Robert Farnes, investment partner at Hillier Parker, points out that although some property companies are unable to support their present levels of debt, in many cases the banks have agreed to either a financial restructuring or a form of standstill on repayments. "The banks have shown no desire to release property on to the market at prices which would force them to write off part of their loan book."

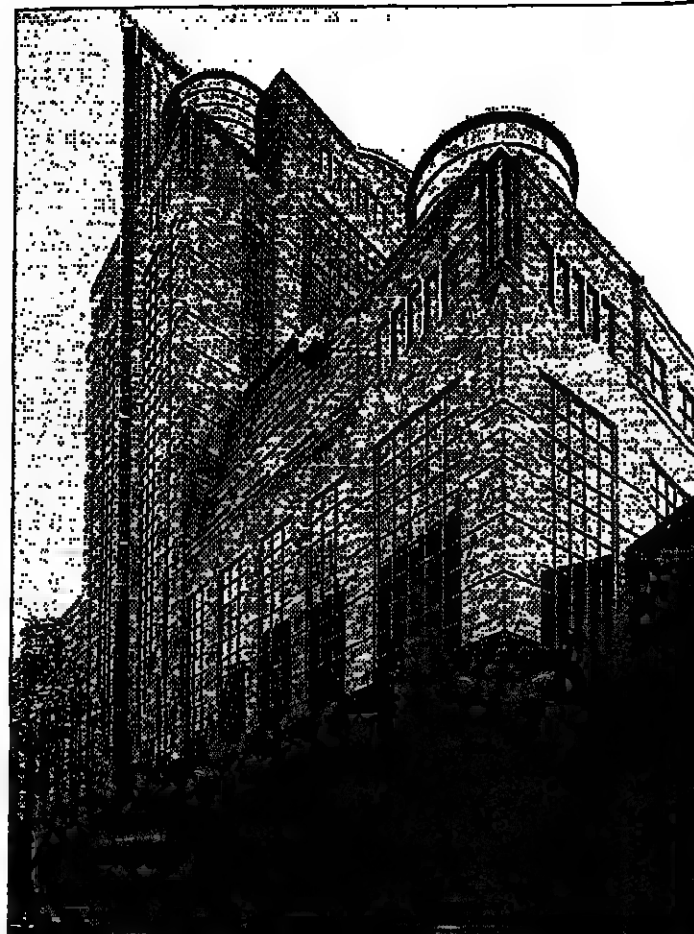
Rupert Clarke, managing director of Jones Lang Wootton financial services, suggests that the ability of the banks to continue reducing their property exposure gives some reassurance to the financial community that there is still life in the property market.

"The last-minute election reprieve for the Conservatives gives further comfort that the property market will remain sufficiently liquid for the banks to continue to achieve further reductions."

In its investment market commentary, Knight Frank & Rutley says it is becoming apparent that the retail sector, which was first into the downturn, is now beginning to show some signs of recovery. With consumer expenditure only forecast to grow by 1 per cent in 1992, however, the outlook remains somewhat flat. The office market continues to be the worst-performing property sector, and industrial the best on an annual basis.

For any organisation seeking a new building, there has never been a better opportunity to achieve maximum value for money, according to Gardiner & Theobald, chartered quantity surveyors. Figures produced in its tender price indicator show a 25 per cent difference between the indices for retail price inflation and construction tender prices. Against a background of rising retail prices, construction prices have been falling since the second quarter of 1990, and the gap is as wide as it has ever been, with little indication of any significant change in the near future.

'We can expect four to five years of stable currency'



Life in the market: The 209,000 sq ft office development at 1 America Square, by and over Fenchurch Street railway station in the City of London, is now half let with the taking up of 15,000 sq ft by the solicitors Elborne Mitchell. The company has taken a 15-year lease at a rental of about £40 a sq ft. Joint agents Chesterton, Herring Baker Harris and Healey & Baker are looking for tenants for the remaining 100,000 sq ft.

MARKET MOVES

A square deal

THE Bedford Estates has let the Grade I listed offices at 24 Bedford Square, London WC1, to the American-based computer advisers, New Science Association. The company is paying a rental of £22.50 a sq ft for 3,600 sq ft with a nine-month rental void for the 15-year lease. Four more buildings in this refurbishment, between 3,500 and 10,000 sq ft, are to be let through Chesterton at a rent of £22.50.

Telford sale

THE Commission for the New Towns has secured its largest property sale in Telford since it assumed responsibility for the new town's industrial and commercial assets in October. Huck (UK), the American-owned fastener manufacturer, has bought the freehold of its 48,890 sq ft factory for £1.34 million.

Mixing in Park Lane

MEPC plc and the freeholder, Grosvenor Estate Holdings, have sold Brook House in Park Lane, London, to a consortium of overseas investors on a 105-year lease for £9.1 million. MEPC's former headquarters building may be redeveloped or refurbished for mixed use in accordance with present planning permissions.

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Executive Secretary

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Stepping from college to career

Your first job can be a dead end or a launching pad. Beryl Dixon reports

While college leavers naturally give priority to finding a first job, the far-sighted will be looking ahead. What can they aim for, two years on? Judicious choice of first job can open the door to more senior positions, as both Nicola Marwick and Clare Holland have found.

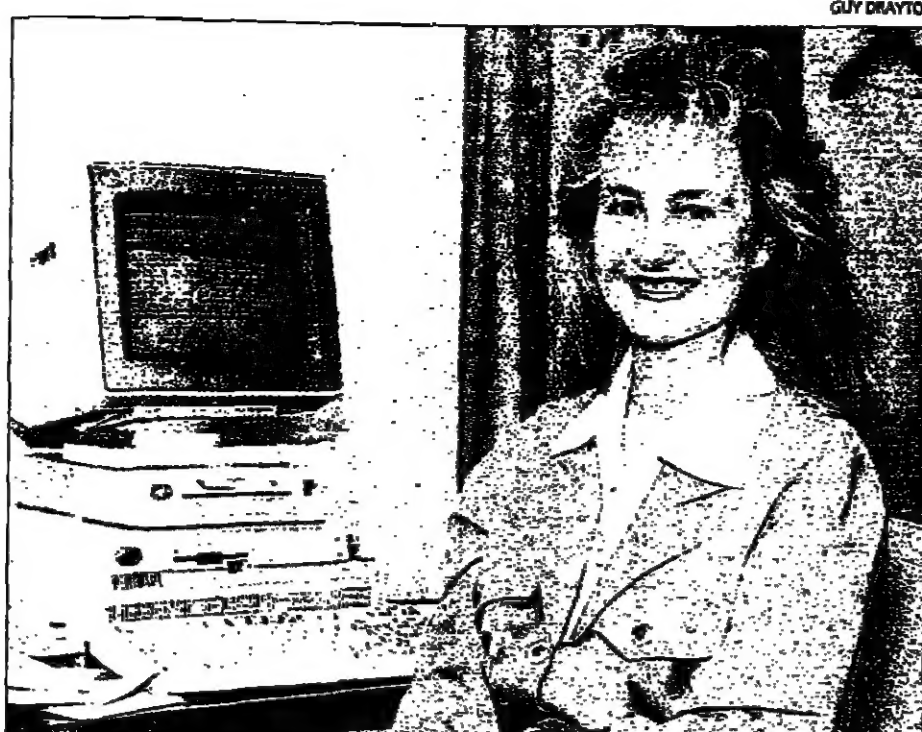
Nicola, who left college with the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Secretarial Studies Certificate, together with a distinction in RSA Stage 2 typing and a shorthand speed of 80 wpm, worked first as a temp on leaving college. After only two weeks at a merchant bank, she was offered a permanent job. "I was working for one of the managers doing an enormous amount of typing and some shorthand. I had to ask him to slow down at first when dictating, but my speed soon improved."

After four months, Nicola felt she was not getting sufficient shorthand practice and asked about a transfer. Her manager spoke to the personnel department and Nicola was appointed secretary in the

fund-managing department. This time, she used more shorthand, improved her typing and became proficient in word-processing systems, mainly Displaywrite 4.

She now has shorthand and typing speeds of 78 and 100 respectively and is with her second employer, an international firm of management consultants, working as a floating secretary. "It is like being a permanent temp, but within the same company. I plug gaps wherever required and love the variety. Obviously, I had to be confident in my basic skills and I have learned to be very flexible."

Clare works in the corporate affairs department of Dixons plc. "I report to the corporate affairs officer. There are just two of us in the department, so I have a lot of responsibility, particularly when she is away. We handle all press queries and arrange functions — the chairman's Christmas party, events for employees gaining long-service awards, or exhibitions of new products. I am lucky to have a boss who involves me. I don't just sit and do her correspondence."



Career mover: Nicola Marwick asked for a transfer to practise her shorthand skills

Clare has the LCCI Secretarial Certificate, Information Technology certificates and a distinction in her own college's diploma. She does shorthand at 80 wpm, types at 61 and is fully experienced in Word Perfect 4.2 and 5.0, Wordstar

Express, Lotus 1 2 3 r3 and Harvard Graphics. She attributes her success in gaining her present job (her third) to her technical skills and her experience immediately after college. She gained a place on the Mountbatten

Internship Programme, which sends successful applicants to work in the United States for a year. "Twelve students from my college were accepted and placed with companies in New York. I shared an apartment

with four other 'interns' and worked for a small advertising agency on Madison Avenue.

"I don't think any particular allowances were made for my lack of experience, although everyone was very kind. They have a high expectation of English-trained secretaries and I was expected to perform. As a result, I learned a lot — and quickly. When I came back, I felt more experienced than the normal first-jobber and was able to find a job at quite senior level in a corporate finance department."

Both girls followed the standard advice given to college leavers, namely to take a first job in which you can consolidate your skills and stay in it for at least a year.

Good advice is easy to find: less easy to follow when jobs are as tight as at present. Recession has hit college leavers, with many firms reluctant to recruit new staff. This year's leavers must be flexible in the type of job they will accept.

Does this imply that college leavers must lower their sights too far and take anything that appears? No, but it does mean job-seekers should not stick rigidly to one employment category — "I want to be in advertising and nothing else will do". It also means that if the job taken does not offer

much use of shorthand, as Nicola found, this skill must be kept up to scratch until an opportunity to use it occurs.

At the Oxford and County Business College where Clare Thompson, the principal, Joy Thompson, is advising this year's leavers to regard themselves as lucky if they get their first choice of job. "The halcyon days of three years ago, when each could choose from eight job offers, have gone," she says. Miss Thompson remains confident, however, that her students are well

placed to enter the shrinking job market.

"I tell them that in comparison with secretaries who trained even a few years ago, their skills stand up to scrutiny by the most exacting employer."

"Companies want secretaries who can use several software packages, work with spreadsheets and databases and be capable of consulting manuals and troubleshooting when hitches occur — modern skills, in addition to sound traditional ones."

SECRETARY OF THE YEAR

THE WINNER of the first Times European Professional Secretary of the Year Award was Judith Alicia Koslowska, PA/client liaison officer to the managing director of MMAR International, a financial services company.

The award is sponsored by The Times, the European Association of Professional Secretaries and the Industrial Society. The results were announced on Tuesday, March 24, at the London Secretary and Office Management Show at

the Barbican Centre, London.

Mrs Koslowska, who lives in Southgate, north London, wins a two-week holiday for two in Bangkok, worth £1,500, courtesy of Holiday Inn Worldwide and Swissair. She also wins a secretarial course from the Industrial Society, a language course from Berlitz, a haircut from Vidal Sassoon and voucher for runners-up each received a two-night weekend for two worth £750 in Geneva.

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